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ARAB TIMES

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US warns PLO indirectly

WASHINGTON, May 11. (Reuters) The United States has said it has indirectly warned the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) not to attack American targets, but denied it had threatened retaliation against the group.

State Department spokesman Charles Redman said the United States had contacted Arab countries to advise them it had advance information of what he called possible PLO attacks against American citizens and facilities.

"These contacts were a prudent response to information available to us concerning possible attacks," Redman told reporters. "We certainly hoped that the message would get through to the PLO."

Denial

PLO leader Yasser Arafat said in Baghdad yesterday that his organisation, with which the United States has no official dealings, had received a message from the United States threatening retaliation against the PLO leadership.

US Assistant Secretary of State, Richard Murphy, denied Arafat's charge that the United States had threatened to retaliate against PLO leaders. "I would reject that," Murphy told a congressional hearing.

Kuwait overcomes adverse market effects

Oil industry is flourishing: Ali

KUWAIT'S Minister of Oil, Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa, has said that despite "adverse circumstances", Kuwait has found new markets for its oil and secured long-term sales contracts.

In a foreword to the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation's (KPC) 1986-87 report, he declares that the corporation has had remarkable success in moderating the adverse effects of a fluctuating oil market.

Returns

The minister notes with satisfaction that KPC has managed not only to absorb the ensuing additional costs and burdens but secured excellent financial returns surpassing those for the earlier year.

Sheikh Ali, who is chairman of the KPC board of directors, asserts that the corporation has achieved its objectives and success.



Sheikh Ali markets

gest marketing networks on the continent.

He notes that the corporation has also enlarged its fully-owned distribution network in Denmark through the acquisition of new service stations.

KPC has also managed to establish its presence at several leading international airports to provide the major airlines with aviation fuel. There are plans to expand these operations.

Competitive

Sheikh Ali says that in an effort to further promote the goodwill it has already gained in Europe, KPC is to develop its refining and storage facilities further, as well as improve the quality of its refined products. The corporation also intends to pursue research and development programmes in order to produce even better products.

In foreign exploration, KPC has been keen to keep a balance

between a reserved stand — dictated by the uncertainties surrounding the oil industry — and the desire to capitalise on the revival of the industry. It has also placed special emphasis on its exploration programme in the United States and the North Sea.

The minister states that KPC has maintained its competitiveness in the international drilling market in expectation of capitalising on this capability as soon as circumstances allow. It has also made good use of the available in-house technical know-how in design and engineering services for the implementation of its own projects.

The corporation has continued with its programmes of safety, industrial security, energy conservation, manpower development, training and improved production efficiency, while making "strenuous efforts to rationalise expenditures and minimise costs," concludes Sheikh Ali.

Hussein calls for Arab army

JORDAN'S King Hussein proposed the creation of a pan-Arab army to repulse any attacks on Arab countries, in an interview published yesterday, in a local newspaper.

Hussein also said his country was prepared to contribute units from its army, and that he had contacted the leaders of some unspecified Arab states to discuss the idea of a pan-Arab force.

He also belittled the significance of current US efforts for Arab-Israeli peace and warned the US credibility had "reached a zero point."

"I disclose for the first time that I have started discussing with a number of Arab leaders the idea of setting up Arab brigades which enjoy a sophisticated standard of training and competence," he said in the interview, conducted in Amman.

He did not say which Arab leaders he had contacted in this connection but said the force should have a "pan-Arab command based on the highest levels of training, armament and logistics, because any peace messages should be supported with might."

The force would be based on the Joint Arab Defence Pact which binds all members of the 22-nation Arab League, Hussein said, adding that he became convinced of the feasibility of the idea following the emergency Arab summit he hosted in Amman last November.

The league membership of Egypt, the biggest Arab military power, remains suspended because of its 1978 peace treaty with Israel.

Hussein said the proposed pan-Arab force should be "ready to step in to repulse any aggression that faces the Arab nation in any part of the Arab world."

Hussein, who put the present number of Jordanian armed forces at 120,000, offered to allocate part of his troops to the proposed Arab Army.

Asked whether the proposed brigades will form the nucleus of a revived eastern Arab front, he said:



HH the Amir waving at citizens during a visit to a popular cafe. (See also Page 4)

Bomb aimed at Israelis

Three killed in Nicosia blast

NICOSIA, May 11. (Reuters) A powerful car bomb intended for the Israeli embassy in Nicosia killed three people and seriously injured 19 today, Cyprus government officials said.

They said nine of the injured were in serious condition.

They said one of the dead was in a four-wheel drive vehicle which had earlier tried to park outside the Israeli embassy but had been turned away by police.

A remote control device was found at the scene of the blast, about 200 metres (yards) from the Israeli embassy, the officials said.

The other person killed was in a vehicle following the one which exploded and did not appear to be connected with the blast, they said.

The explosion blew a nine-

metre (three-ft) hole in a concrete bridge, destroying the four-wheel-drive Mitsubishi and badly damaging several nearby vehicles. Windows were broken for about half-a-mile (one km) around.

President George Vassiliou, who visited the injured in hospital, called a meeting tomorrow to discuss tightened security on the island.

Cyprus has been the scene of several violent incidents related to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Blown

Police said the Mitsubishi Pajero, bearing temporary number plates and carrying only the driver, twice tried to park near the entrance to the embassy.

Cypriot police guards stopped it from parking on both occasions and the second time it drove off at high speed towards central Nicosia, hitting another car.

About a minute later the vehicle and its driver were blown to pieces by a very strong blast, police said.

They said the person killed in the car behind was a Greek Cypriot woman.

Police said the remote control device was discovered in a field nearby and a person was seen running away after apparently dropping it there.

Witnesses said they saw dismembered limbs on the roadside near the burned-out Mitsubishi which was hosed down and covered with a tarpaulin.

Israel arrests newsmen

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 11. (AP) Soldiers and police arrested at least six Palestinian journalists today, as leaders of the Palestinian uprising issued a new leaflet calling on Arabs to stop enough food for a month-long bout of civil disobedience.

"The uprising has made the Palestinian problem a central issue in the world," said the leaflet distributed in the occupied territories and Arab East Jerusalem. "The uprising is becoming a ghost which scares the enemy."

It urged "a complete boycott of the Zionists and asks the people to ready themselves for civil disobedience by storing food in houses, enough for at least a month."

In Jerusalem and its suburbs, police and soldiers rounded up journalists and community leaders, according to Arab reports.

Iranian frigate sighted in Gulf

WASHINGTON, May 11. (Agencies) British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has reaffirmed that her country would maintain its naval presence in the Gulf waters as long as the war continues to threaten neutral shipping in the Gulf.

In an interview with the Washington Post, Thatcher said yesterday that Britain and the United States have increased cooperation between their naval forces helping to protect neutral vessels in the Gulf waterway.

Resources

"It looks as though we're going to be more responsible for one area," apparently the southern Gulf where the British Navy has long been operating, "and the United States will be more responsible for another," she said.

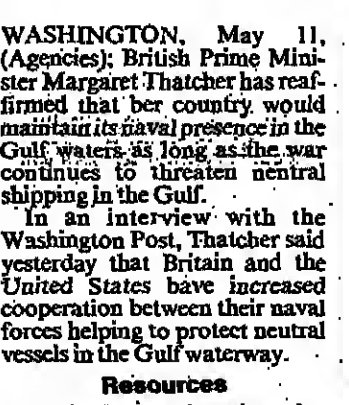
However, Britain does not have the resources to protect ships other than those flying the British flag, Thatcher said, beyond emergency assistance "on ordinary humanitarian grounds."

"I don't think any of us could agree that we would escort all vessels up the Gulf," she said, "because we just haven't got the naval forces to do so... So, of course, you're there first to protect your own."

Meanwhile, one of the two British-built frigates left in Iran's battered Navy was sighted in the Strait of Hormuz yesterday, its first reported outing since a pair of sister ships were knocked out in a clash with the US Navy last month.

The 1,540-ton frigate Alvand

UK to maintain naval presence



Thatcher: limited

came within about three miles (five kms) of a US missile frigate, but did not respond to radio messages advising it to keep its distance, US officers in the Gulf said.

It was the first time the Alvand or the fourth frigate, the Alborz, had been sighted by US warships since the clashes in which two Iranian oil platforms were destroyed and a total of six armed craft were sunk or disabled.

Traffic in the busy Gulf, which came to a near halt as shippers tried to assess Iran's intentions, appears to have picked up sharply.

Hit

The British warships Exeter and Boxer, along with three Dutch minesweepers, escorted a six-tanker convoy that included the Mohil Falcon, the Esso Geneva and the British Petroleum Trent, into the strait heading for the Gulf of Oman.

Iraq said its aircraft attacked and hit a ship near the coast of Iran in the northern Gulf today.

A military spokesman said the planes scored "an accurate and effective hit" on a large naval target — Baghdad's term for an oil tanker or merchant ship.

INSIDE

International	2
Kuwait-Gulf	3, 4
Events	5
Editorials	6
Features	7, 8
Business	9, 12
Stocks	10, 11
Junior Times	13
Classifieds	14
Urdu	15, 16, 17, 18
Sports	19, 20

آج کے اردو صفحات

- امریکہ پاکستان کو جدید طیارے فراہم کرے گا
- دربار صاحب پر سکھ انتہا پسندوں اور یسویوں کی فسادیں
- لٹوی کا تیسرا روز
- قبرص میں اسرائیلی سفارتخانے کے قریب بم کا دھماکا
- امریکہ نے لبنان پر قرارداد منظور کر دی
- قلیان میں باغی فوجی افسروں کو سزائے قید کا حکم
- پاکستان کی صورتحال پر اشرف شاہ کا تجزیہ

Insak	3.20 am
Ifhar	6.32 pm
FRIDAY	
Insak	3.18 am
Ifhar	6.32 pm

Dhaka on way to make Islam state religion

DHAKA, May 11. (Reuters) The government introduced a bill in Parliament today seeking to make Islam the state religion of Bangladesh.

A clause in the bill would make the eighth amendment to Bangladesh's constitution: "The state religion of the republic is Islam, but other religions may be practised in peace and harmony in the republic."

Prime Minister Maudood Ahmed introduced the bill and said there would be a full-scale debate on it at a later stage.

The government is unlikely to have any trouble getting the bill through Parliament where the ruling Jatiya Party has more than the two-thirds majority needed to approve a constitutional amendment.

Debate

Parliament sources said the debate on the bill might take place soon after a Muslim festival next week.

More than 90 per cent of Bangladesh's 105 million people are Muslims, making it the most populous Muslim country after Indonesia and Pakistan.

Major opposition parties boycotted a March 3 election in which the current members of Parliament were chosen. They wanted President Hossain Mohammad Ershad to resign before an election was held.

Ershad has already taken steps towards an Islamic society. He has made Islamic studies compulsory in schools and ordered all restaurants closed during the day in the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan.

But, he has said, the country's Hindu, Christian and Buddhist minorities will be allowed absolute religious and social freedom.

US to sell spy planes to Pakistan

WASHINGTON, May 11. (AP) The US Defense Department notified Congress that it has approved the sale of three P-3C Orion maritime surveillance planes to Pakistan.

Assuming there are no congressional objections, the Pentagon said Pakistan would be allowed to purchase the three aircraft along with spare parts, ground support facilities and training services for an estimated \$240 million.

"This sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a friendly country which has been and continues to be an important force for stability in South-West Asia," the Pentagon said.

The Orion is a propeller-driven plane used by the US Navy for long-range sea patrols and the detection of submarines.

The announced sale of three of the planes comes just two months after neighbouring India — Pakistan's arch foe — leased a nuclear-powered attack submarine from the Soviet Union for its Navy.

According to Pentagon sources, India already has eight Soviet-made Foxtrot diesel submarines, which date to the 1960's, two newer Russian Kilo diesel subs, and two advanced West German diesel submarines known as HDW type 209's.

The Pentagon insisted in a statement yesterday the sale of the P-3's to Pakistan "will not affect the basic military balance in the region."

Rocard, named premier, forming government

PARIS, May 11. (AP) Premier Michel Rocard appointed a chief of staff today and consulted with senior socialists on possible cabinet ministers in his new government.

President Francois Mitterrand, newly re-elected, appointed Rocard yesterday to succeed conservative Jacques Chirac as premier.

Rocard, long a rival to Mitterrand within the Socialist Party, said he would not delay in naming his cabinet, but it was not clear how soon the appointments would come.

The first move by the 57-year-old premier was to choose a long-time aide, Jean Paul Huchon, as his chief of staff.

Former socialist Finance Minister Pierre Bergey met for 45 minutes with Rocard this morning. Bergey had been considered a possible premier and the meeting fed speculation that he might return to the Finance Ministry or get another senior cabinet post.

In addition to socialists, Rocard is expected to draft into his squad some independent technocrats and open it to the centre of the political spectrum. Some French newspapers speculated Rocard will name Pierre Berge, president of the fashion house Yves St Laurent, as minister for culture.

Reinforcements

Police estimate between 80 to 100 militants are inside the sprawling white marble complex in Amritsar, 250 miles (400 km) northwest of New Delhi, from which they have been firing since Monday mostly with Chinese-made assault rifles and sub-machine guns.

The extremists belong to groups accused of killing more than 900 people this year as part of their bloody separatist drive to turn northern Punjab into a theocratic nation named "Khalistan."

Gill said some 1,000 reinforcements had been positioned in buildings around the sacred shrine, boosting to about 2,000 the total security personnel laying the siege behind sandbag and brick emplacements around the militants' lair.

Officers killed three unidentified people — two men and one woman — during the pre-dawn gunbattle, he said. Police and militants have reported 10 other deaths in the shrine since the fighting erupted.

Some personnel are armed with light machineguns, and yesterday one man was shot while running near the gold-domed temple, indicating officers had been briefed to shoot at anything that moved.

Police cut off the electricity and water supply to the Golden Temple complex shortly after more than 800 pilgrims were evacuated.

3 die in Golden Temple battle

AMRITSAR, May 11. (UPI) Police today killed three people in the Golden Temple, bringing to 13 the death toll from a two-day siege of about 100 militants holed up in Sikhdom's holiest shrine by some 2,000 security personnel, an official said.

Punjab police chief K.P.S. Gill said the fatalities occurred during a heavy duel of automatic weapons fire that began early this morning and subsided after about two hours into sporadic gunshots that ebbed throughout the morning across the curfew-bound holy city.

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Crush Karachi riots: Junejo

KARACHI, May 11. (Agencies) Pakistan's Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo ordered security forces to crush ethnic riots in Karachi with an iron hand.

He "particularly instructed the security agencies to hunt down the operators and agents provocateurs behind these disturbances," a government statement said.

The statement followed opposition charges that the authorities themselves were fanning rivalry between Pashtuns and mohajirs.

Army troops searched house-to-house yesterday in Karachi

for illegal weapons, and authorities extended a curfew.

"These searches were carried out to recover illegal weapons and ammunition with some success," said an official who cannot be named under government rules.

Rifles, pistols and cartridges were recovered, the official said, but the Army failed to find any automatic weapons, including Kalashnikov assault rifles, that the rival groups used in recent months.

A scarcity of utilities, including drinking water, has raised tensions in the city of seven

million people — Pakistan's largest.

The latest round of violence began on April 29, when a bus driven by a Pathan killed a mohajir pedestrian.

In a separate incident, a bomb blast injured eight people yesterday, in the north-western Pakistani town of Peshawar, the official APP news agency reported.

It said the bomb went off near a railway level-crossing on the outskirts of Peshawar, capital of North West Frontier Province bordering Afghanistan.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

Raj Kapoor improving

NEW DELHI, May 11. (Reuters) Indian movie mogul, Raj Kapoor, has been reported stable after a nine-day fight for life against pneumonia and asthma, the Press Trust of India said.

It quoted doctors at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences as saying, Raj Kapoor, 64, was still under heavy sedation and fluid was being periodically drained from his lungs.

Raj Kapoor was rushed to hospital in Delhi on May 2 after an asthma attack at a film award ceremony.

He has dominated the Indian movie industry for nearly 40 years as an actor, director and producer.

US vetoes UN resolution condemning Israel

UNITED NATIONS, May 11. (Agencies) The United States vetoed a Security Council resolution yesterday condemning last week's Israeli sweep into southern Lebanon.

The vote on the resolution was 14 in favour and one against, with no abstentions.

This was the second time this year the United States had vetoed a council resolution condemning Israeli attacks against Lebanese territory.

Israel announced last Wednesday it had completed a 48-hour search-and-destroy operation in southern Lebanon during which it said 40 Muslim commandos and three Israeli soldiers were killed.

Lebanon told the council that 3,000 Israeli soldiers took part in the operation, which it said could not be called just an incursion but an invasion.

Lebanon's acting Premier Selim Al Hoss today criticised the US for its veto of the council resolution.

"Despite the American veto, we believe that we have won by enjoying the world's support," he said.

Japanese over 88 maintain sex drive

TOKYO, May 11. (UPI): In Japan, which boasts the world's highest life expectancy rate, most men over age 88 maintain a strong sex drive, according to a survey published here.

"The secrets of longevity," said the Asahi Shimbun, a major newspaper that published the survey, "are to live in a mountain village, take walks regularly, eat lightly seasoned foods and stay interested in women."

Japan's life expectancy rate — 75 years for men and 81 for women — is often attributed to Japan's low-fat diet or advanced health care system.

The survey of 7,200 people over age 88, the age that symbolises longevity in Japan, attempted to find common elements in their lifestyles that may be responsible for their good health.

The interviewers questioned 93 of the healthier male respondents in depth.

"Three-quarters of the men are still (sexually) interested in women," the survey found.

Most, 56 per cent, continued having sex until age 80. Thirty per cent were active until age 85 and three of the male respondents said they were still active at 88.

The results seem to indicate that for longevity men needed wives but women don't need husbands," the newspaper stated.

Of the 123 healthy women interviewed at length, 98 per cent are widows and half of them lost their husbands more than 30 years ago.

Gorbachev vows to press ahead with change

Soviet reforms causing turmoil

MOSCOW, May 11. (Reuters): Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev says his ambitious reform programme has brought turmoil even at the highest Soviet level but he expressed determination to press ahead with change.

In a speech to leading newspaper editors, Gorbachev said not all party members were ready to accept his "perestroika" restructuring programme.

"We have revealed a real turmoil in the minds of many people — workers, intelligentsia and leading cadres, not only below but at the top," he declared. The text of his address was issued by Tass news agency last night.

Analysts said the Soviet leader was referring to reported disagreements over the pace of reform in the Communist Party's ruling politburo, in particular to

a rumoured rift between him and Kremlin ideology chief Yegor Ligachev.

Soviet sources earlier quoted people present at the meeting as saying that Gorbachev had attempted to dispel rumours by gesturing towards Ligachev and saying: "We all have a great deal to do together yet."

Concessions
In his speech, Gorbachev made clear he would make no concessions to opponents of his policies. But in a clear bid for rapprochement, he said he disagreed with press reports branding them as enemies.

It was more a question, he said, of people being confused or panicking at the prospect of radical changes in their lives.

"But I would not immediately categorise the panickers as irre-

sponsible people or opposed to perestroika," he said.

In recent weeks, an open debate in the Soviet press has pitted backers of the reforms against more conservative elements. Some letters and articles expressed concern that Gorbachev might be ousted.

Gorbachev called on the Soviet media to work as an "instrument of perestroika."

The mass media, he said, had great responsibilities and "must, like the rest of society, be kept in tune."

Conference

"We are all children of our time," he said. "We conceived perestroika, but we also embody many of the things which hold it back. Revealing this, comrades, is a very important task for the media."



Gorbachev: reforms

Referring to next month's party conference, Gorbachev confirmed he would press for a reshaping of the party structures, in line with his drive to curb bureaucracy and make officials more accountable.

"We must think again about the structure of the party apparatus," he said. "We are thinking of introducing a series of proposals on this account."

He urged party organisations to use support for perestroika as their main criterion in selecting delegates for the conference, the first of its kind since 1941.

"There's not going to be any of the quota system we had in the past — so many workers and peasants, so many women, and so on," he said.

19 more killed in Beirut fighting

BEIRUT, May 11. (AP): Warring Shiite militias backed by Syria and Iran today fought each other with tanks, howitzers, rockets and mortars in a battle for control of south Beirut.

Police said 19 people were killed and 50 wounded in eight hours of fighting before a ceasefire called by Syrian and Iranian mediators went into effect and fighting ebbed to sporadic automatic gunfire.

They said the new round of fighting between pro-Syrian Amal and the Iranian-backed Hezbollah broke out early this morning shattering a 24-hour Syrian-brokered truce.

The latest casualty count brought to 173 people killed and 422 wounded the overall toll from the Amal-Hezbollah fighting since it first erupted Friday.

Acting Prime Minister Salim Hoss accused the militia leaders of "providing the criminals with the means of killing and destruction to burn a safe area."

Attack

"We hold the (militia) leaders responsible for all the crimes committed against humanity in south Beirut and urged them to order a ceasefire before it is too late," Hoss said in a statement broadcast by all radio stations.

Residents of Beirut were shaken awake by the thuds of exploding shells that echoed across the Lebanese capital as Amal mounted a five-pronged pre-dawn attack against Hezbollah fighters in south Beirut.

A police spokesman said tanked Amal forces advancing behind a fierce barrage of howitzer, rocket and mortar fire, dislodged Hezbollah fundamentals from several areas they conquered in the past five days along the western edge of south Beirut abutting the airport highway.

He said flight schedules were not affected, and passengers managed to reach the airport through side streets.

Hezbollah, the spokesman said, stormed Amal positions deep in south Beirut and occupied the militia's main base in the district of Bourj El-Barajneh east of the Beirut airport highway.

Hezbollah also occupied a police station of Bourj El-Barajneh after it was deserted by policemen due to intensity of the fighting, said the spokesman who cannot be named in line with standing regulations.

The dozen policemen deserted their station after it took several direct mortar hits, he said.

Army court convicts Filipino mutineers

MANILA, May 11. (Reuters): A Philippine military court has convicted 106 soldiers who took part in a failed coup attempt to restore deposed ruler Ferdinand Marcos to power and sentenced their leaders to 12 years' hard labour.

The military announced the decision today as 5,000 Marcos supporters, chanting his name and demanding his return from exile in Hawaii, marched to Corason Aquino's tightly guarded presidential palace.

The convictions, which came last night after a marathon court martial, were the largest number handed down by the military in connection with five army revolts Aquino has faced in her two years in power.

The charges arose from the mutineers' 60-hour occupation of a private Manila television station in January, 1987, and attacks on two air bases near the capital that left one soldier dead and 16 wounded.

Only one of the 106 soldiers charged with mutiny, absence without leave, illegal possession of firearms and conduct prejudicial to military discipline was acquitted of all the charges.

military spokesman Colonel Angel Mayoralgo said.

Another accused soldier escaped during the trial and his case remains pending, he said.

Revolt leader Colonel Oscar Canlas and 39 others were found guilty of mutiny and received sentences ranging from six to 12 years of hard labour.

Sixty-six soldiers were convicted of the lesser offences and meted out terms of six months at hard labour each.

Mayoralgo said the military court had recommended to Aquino that the rebels be granted clemency, either in the form of reduced sentences or outright pardons.

The military said the mutineers had hoped to spark a widespread army uprising intended to restore Marcos to the presidency.

Marcos, who has lived in Hawaii since he was overthrown in a revolt in February, 1986, was to have slipped back into the country on a private jet, the military said.

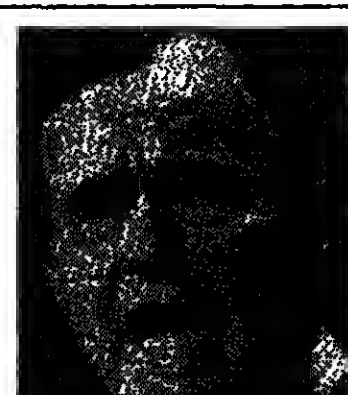
About 250 other soldiers are still under investigation for involvement in mutinies.

Reagan to endorse Bush

WASHINGTON, May 11. (UPI): President Reagan bestows his long-awaited blessing tonight on the campaign of his loyal No. 2, hoping Vice-President George Bush can keep the White House in Republican hands as America enters the 1990s.

After meeting with Republican leaders in the morning, aides said Reagan would make his formal endorsement at the very formal President's dinner, a \$1,500-a-plate bash that could generate more than \$5 million for Republican campaign coffers.

The endorsement comes as no surprise although Reagan has maintained a posture of neutrality throughout the primary election season. Bush, a



Bush: backing

public loyalist on all Reagan policies, is the logical trustee of the President's legacy.

A year ago, Bush gave interviews indicating he would emerge as his own man on several policy issues. But in recent months, he has made it clear that he does not intend to deviate from the Reagan philosophy and programmes.

Shultz, Shevardnadze hold pre-summit talks

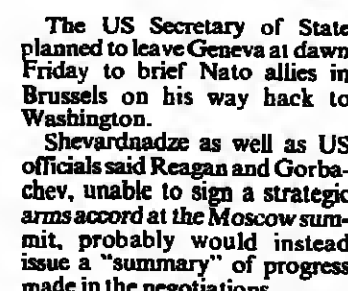
GENEVA, May 11. (UPI): US Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze scheduled four sessions today and Thursday to complete preparations for the forthcoming Moscow summit.

Senior American officials said the two men were also "expected" to resolve last-minute verification problems boding up US Senate ratification of last December's Intermediate Nuclear Missile (INF) treaty.

Shevardnadze told reporters on his arrival in Geneva Tuesday that his talks with Shultz would primarily concern continuing negotiations on 50 per cent cuts in long-range strategic nuclear weapons.

Both sides ruled out any chance of completing such an accord in time for the May 29-June 2 summit in Moscow — the fourth encounter between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev since they first met in Geneva in 1985.

US and Soviet spokesmen said Shultz and Shevardnadze had two sessions scheduled for today and two for Thursday.



The US Secretary of State planned to leave Geneva at dawn Friday to brief Nato allies in Brussels on his way back to Washington.

Shevardnadze as well as US officials said Reagan and Gorbachev, unable to sign a strategic arms accord at the Moscow summit, probably would instead issue a "summary" of progress made in the negotiations.

US problems with their earlier treaty eliminating ground-launched medium and shorter-range nuclear missiles involve nine technical points about monitoring compliance, American officials said.

"They involve, for example, the question of what is the smallest item subject to inspection during on-site inspection," a senior official said.

Another issue concerned apparent Soviet refusal to let photographs be taken during inspection of INF missile production facilities and sites.

The United States wants Moscow to supply satisfactory clarifications to permit Senate ratification of the treaty in time for the summit.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Signature check

COLOMBO, May 11. (Reuters): Sri Lankan authorities today checked the signatures on a peace agreement with an outlawed Marxist Sinhalese group after doubts over their authenticity. Newspapers reported receiving telephone calls from purported leaders of the group, the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP), saying they were not a party to the agreement.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathududila, who announced the pact on Tuesday, told reporters a government expert was checking the signatures of JVP leader Rohana Wijeweera and general secretary Upathissa Gamanayake, which appear on the peace document.

Occupation ends

WARSAW, May 11. (AP): Workers who voluntarily left the Lenin Shipyard after an eight-day occupation strike called it a truce, not a treaty, while communist authorities said Poland's two weeks of labour unrest will compel it to speed up reforms.

The country was free of strikes for the first day today since Lech Walesa and 1,000 followers left the shipyard in Gdansk with heads held high but no settlement last night.

Peres in Madrid

MADRID, May 11. (Reuters): Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres met two Soviet officials in Madrid for talks on Middle East peace and relations between Israel and the Soviet Union.

Peres and the Soviet officials were in the Spanish capital for a conference of the Socialist International, where Peres met sharp criticism of Israeli treatment of Palestinians.

Execution delayed

HUNTSVILLE, Texas, May 11. (AP): A death-row inmate, who requested a lump of dirt for his final meal and insisted he wanted to be executed early today was given a reprieve Tuesday by the US Supreme Court in an appeal by his mother.

The nation's highest court granted the stay for James Smith about six hours before the scheduled execution. No vote among the justices was released.

Alexzene Hamilton filed the appeal with the Supreme Court on Monday, contending son was mentally incompetent. Her attorneys also contended mitigating evidence was not allowed to be considered by jurors who sentenced Smith to death.

Rebel violence

DHAKA, May 11. (Reuters): Separatist tribal rebels shot dead two members of a family and wounded another in southern Bangladesh on Tuesday, officials said.

They said gunmen from the outlawed Shanti Bahini riddled Hashem Ali and his 15-year-old daughter, Zarina Khatun, with bullets as they were guarding rice fields from attacks by wild boars. Khatun's mother Jahannara Begum, was badly wounded in the attack in the heavily forested village of Malangpara in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Nomination

CHARLESTON, West Virginia, May 11. (Reuters): Michael Dukakis has swept two more primaries on his Democratic presidential nomination march amid new signs that Democrats who defected to President Reagan in 1984 may return to the party in the November election.

As expected, the Massachusetts Governor won landslide victories over his remaining rival, black civil rights leader Jesse Jackson, in West Virginia and Nebraska on Tuesday.

Rent-a-tomato

TOKYO, May 11. (Kuna): It was rent-a-car so far, but rent-a-tomato plant and rent-an-apple tree system made its debut in Japan, a local firm revealed Wednesday.

If you like fresh, home-grown tomatoes there is no need to dig your backyard any more. The majority of Japanese people have no backyard any way.

Those who live in an apartment with a small space can have two rental tomato plants in a pot complete with tomatoes at varying stages of ripeness, the company said.

41 drowned

NEW DELHI, May 11. (Reuters): At least 41 people drowned when a boat capsized in an eastern Indian reservoir, the Press Trust of India said today.

Only eight survivors swam ashore after the accident on Sunday, it added. The accident took place on the border of Orissa and Andhra Pradesh states.

Afghan attack

ISLAMABAD, May 11. (UPI): Afghan guerrillas staged their biggest rocket attack on the Soviet-occupied capital of Kabul this year, killing at least 23 people and injuring 28, Kabul Radio reported Tuesday.



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Landscaping of roundabouts underway

AS per instructions of HH the Amir, Kuwait Municipality is currently planning to landscape roundabouts within the city with trees and flowers.

Sources at Kuwait Municipality stated that a number of such projects have already been executed such as Darwazah Abdul Razzaq and Safat Square. They added that studies undertaken have been submitted to the Ministry of Public Works. The sources further believe that landscaping would be implemented on a national level if internal landscaping proved successful. The municipality would designate roundabouts and invite registered contractors to bid for these landscaping jobs.

The sources commented that invitations might be extended to Kuwaiti artists and sculptors to display their works at the landscaped roundabouts following completion.

IAEA welcomes Saudis joining nuclear treaty

VIENNA, May 11. (Kuna): The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has welcomed Saudi Arabia's readiness to join the treaty for nuclear non proliferation.

Director of the Information Department at the IAEA, Yoshida Yasuhiko, told Kuna here yesterday that the Saudi decision constitutes a political importance rather than a military one.

He said the Saudi initiative materialises the desire of that Arab country to work for peace, noting the important political role of the kingdom in the Middle East.

Emphasising that threats come from military regimes such as Iraq and the latter regime of South Africa, he said Saudi Arabia acquired a small reactor, to be used for scientific research purposes.

The IAEA official noted that Tel Aviv and Pretoria refused to join the treaty and added that the US, the Soviet Union and Britain informed the agency about Saudi Arabia's desire.

Allegations rejected as false

Kuwait is not a party to Gulf war

UNITED NATIONS, May 11. (Kuna): Kuwait yesterday reaffirmed it is not party to the destructive war between Iraq and Iran and asserted it will not permit non-Kuwaitis to establish a presence in Kuwait or permit the use of its land, waters or air space.

In a letter addressed to Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Kuwaiti Ambassador Mohammad A. Abulhasan rejected similar allegations made by Iran.

"Kuwait, like all peace-loving countries, has endeavoured to

find a just, peaceful and honourable solution to this destructive war," he said. "This admirable effort is one of the solid foundations of our policy."

Deliberate

He expressed regret at what he called Iran's "false and unrealistic allegations" against Kuwait and noted the intensification of the language of the Iranian threats, contained in its official notes to the UN suggest "the existence of deliberate designs against Kuwait and its territorial integrity."

"Kuwait views these notes with deep concern, particularly the latest note from the Iranian delegation ... which contains a veiled threat against the security and stability of Kuwait," he said.

Threats

He said the Iranian threats flagrantly contravene and violate the charter, international law and the principles of good neighbourliness.

"While exercising the utmost degree of self-restraint, Kuwait draws the world community's attention to the gravity of the latest threats which the Iranians

may carry out, especially since they have already fired a scud missile at Kuwait," he said.

"The continued repetition of such threats seriously increase the tension in the region at a time when Kuwait has been seeking to ease it and to end the tragic war between the two neighbours, Iraq and Iran."

Abulhasan called on the members of the Security Council, particularly the five permanent ones, to take steps to adopt a "clear and unequivocal position" vis-a-vis the Iranian threats against Kuwait.

Municipality urges decentralised activities

THE former chairman of Kuwait's Municipal Council Dawood Musaed Al Saleh has said that it is essential that the central government decentralise its activities. He added that the Municipality's staff now consists of 16,500 employees with a budget of KD200 million.

Inspection

Al Saleh said that the Municipality handles housing, cleaning, licensing, marketing, sewage utilities and educational facilities. He stressed that the establishment of municipality services in each governorate would make it possible for these services to be maintained with less difficulty than having one office responsible for all of them.

Some aspects of the Municipality's work could be carried out by other ministries such as the inspection of foodstuffs by the Health Ministry and the inspection of shops and issuing commercial licences by the Ministry of Commerce.

The technical advisor at Kuwait Municipality, Hamed Shuaib, said that the central Municipality can distribute its various offices to branches in the four governorates and recommended a 10 year experimental decentralisation period. He added that independent municipalities should be included in the policies of the proposed new cities of Khairan and Sibhiya.

Islamic cultural course graduation ceremony



Guests attending the graduation ceremony.

A GRADUATION ceremony was held recently at the Ministry of Public Health to mark the graduation of the Tenth Islamic Cultural Course. The course was co-sponsored by the Ministry of Public Health and the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.

The graduation ceremony began with a recital of the Holy Quran followed by a speech by the Minister of Public Health's Undersecretary Dr Nael Al Naqih which was delivered on his behalf by Al Madaf who confirmed that the Ministry was keen to organise these courses to confirm the importance of good behaviour among employees working in the medical field.

The supervisor of the course Dr Kamel Al Zinati said in a speech that Islam called for sincerity in work and for abiding by the virtues and social values. Mrs Hikmat Abu Zaid delivered a speech on behalf of

the graduates in which she confirmed that the need for education was a precept imposed by Islam on every Muslim. She added that the organising of the Islamic cultural courses aimed at enlightening the employees about religious affairs.

The graduation ceremony was attended by 344 employees and the assistant undersecretary for medicine and medical supplies affairs at the Ministry of Public Health Ibrahim Al Mudaf, who represented the Ministry's Undersecretary Dr Nael Al Naqih in the ceremony.

The ceremony concluded with the Assistant Undersecretary Al Mudaf distributing the prizes to outstanding participants.

Economic committee meets

THE Higher Planning Council's economic committee met last night in the presence of Minister of Commerce and Industry Faisal Al Khalid.

Secretary of the council Fuad Mula Hussein said that the committee deliberated on the country's commercial and industrial policies and a number of draft laws.

He pointed out that the minister pointed to a number of obstacles that face the industrial sector and a number of proposed solutions.

The committee will discuss over the few coming weeks the budgets of government ministries and institutions.

Cairo to host IOMS conference

THE Islamic Organisation for Medical Sciences will hold a conference on means of developing faculties of medicine's curriculums and ways of supporting them with Islamic thought in Cairo next November 20.

Head of the organisation Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi said the conference will set a plan for introducing medical subjects and Islamic heritage to faculties of medicine to prepare doctors before they engage in practice.

Scientists from Arab and Islamic countries will take part in the four-day conference that was called for by Al Azhar University, in addition to other Egyptian quarters working in the field of medicine, Sharia (Islamic legislation) and law.

Call for Arab army

(Continued from Page 1)

said "it could be, but the brigades could form the nucleus of an Arab Army."

Expressing dissatisfaction with the current American attitude towards the Middle East while praising the Soviet stance, Hussein said: "The United States is moving again at present, but what such moves are going to achieve for the region, I don't precisely know ... the Soviet attitude is closer to the Arab attitude."

He described US-Soviet relations as "encouraging" after the first superpower summit led to an agreement to remove intermediate-range nuclear weapons. He also said the Palestinian uprising in Israeli-occupied territories will not liberate Arab land and needs to be coupled with other efforts.

"I personally believe that the uprising will not liberate land, but it may lead to solving the problem as quickly as possible."



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Unauthorised US Stinger missiles show up in Qatar

WASHINGTON, May 11. (AP) The United States is trying to find out how several of its anti-aircraft Stinger missiles wound up in the Gulf state of Qatar, a top US official said yesterday.

Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy said the highly accurate shoulder-fired rockets may have been passed to Qatar by Iran, which in turn seized them from the US-supplied Afghan rebels.

Murphy told a congressional hearing that the United States was seeking to recover the missiles and check their serial numbers against a list of Stingers supplied overseas.

Speaking later to reporters, Murphy said the handful of Stingers had shown up about a month ago in a military parade in Qatar. He said the Qataris had

yet to agree to a US request to see the missiles.

He said the United States could not control "black market" sales of weapons around the world, despite a provision in its Stinger contracts with other governments which forbids transfer of the missiles to a third party.

Seized

Murphy noted that the Stingers were considered an "ideal terrorist's weapon" because they are easy to carry, store and use. He also pointed to congressional sensitivity on the Stinger sales.

Representative Gary Ackerman, a Democrat, said Stingers "are not a bag of oranges or lemons" which can just be sold on the black market.

Representative Larry Smith, also a Democrat, asked Murphy

how the United States can keep track of the Stingers despite its detailed inventories when they are used by Afghan rebels against Soviet forces or Chadian troops fighting against Libya.

Murphy conceded that Iran last year seized a shipment of Stingers sent to the Mujahedeen rebels in Afghanistan. Fragments of Stingers were found on an Iranian speed boat that fired on US helicopters in the Gulf last fall and was attacked in retaliation.

Following that incident, Congress sought to prevent proliferation of the Stingers by banning future US sales of the rocket. But it made an exception for Bahrain, a neighbour of Qatar, to lease that country 70 Stingers for 18 months as a defensive weapon against possible attacks by Iran.

Need for fostering air transport cooperation stressed

DAMASCUS, May 11. (Kuna): Commercial directors of Arab airline companies, members of the Arab Union for Air Transport, stressed the need for fostering Arab cooperation in the field of air transport, and facilitating a number of procedures in confrontation of pressures imposed by world carriers, especially in respect with prices, technical and service issues.

In concluding of their meeting here yesterday, the directors adopted a series of recommendations related to quota systems, computer reservation, services extended to Arab companies, reservation and other issues.

The conference was attended by representatives of the national carriers of Kuwait, Jordan, Syria, Iraq, North Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Gulf Air and the IATA.

Gulf war figures in Kuwait-Soviet talks

THE second round of Kuwait-Soviet talks, held yesterday, tackled wide-ranging issues, including the Gulf conflict, the Palestinian cause and the forthcoming superpowers summit.

The meeting was co-chaired by director of Europe's department at Kuwait's Foreign Ministry Fayssal Al Saleh Al Motawa and the Soviet Roving Ambassador and official envoy of the Foreign Ministry Mikhail Sytenko.

An official source at the foreign ministry told Kuna that yesterday's round of talks, which was held in an atmosphere of frankness, came in completion of the first round, held yesterday under co-chairmanship of the foreign undersecretary and the visiting Soviet diplomat.

The two sides tackled the Iraq-Iran war, its repercussions which

threaten freedom of navigation in the Gulf searoutes, as well as world peace and security.

The Middle East problem and the Palestinian cause, in light of the popular upheaval in the occupied Arab territories, and efforts exerted to convene an international peace conference on the Mideast, were also subjects of discussion.

In this regard, the source added, the Soviet Union expressed support to the convocation of the conference under the UN umbrella while Kuwait reiterated its stance which stipulates the importance of participation of all concerned parties, including the five permanent members in the Security Council and the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Participation of the PLO constitutes a major factor contributing to the success of the proposed conference, the source said.

The Kuwaiti-Soviet talks touched on the forthcoming superpowers summit, due to take place in Moscow between May 29 to June 2, the source said, expressing hope that the Soviet-US summit would tackle, thoroughly, regional problems.

He noted that the agreement reached recently regarding a settlement to the Afghan problem is a clear indication of the big powers ability to solve regional issues.

Sytenko arrived here Monday from Amman where he held talks with senior Jordanian officials.



HH the Amir meeting citizens at popular cafes.



US arms sales will help Saudis to defend against Iranian attacks

WASHINGTON, May 11. (UPI) The Reagan Administration's proposal to sell arms to Saudi Arabia was aimed at helping the Arab kingdom defend against possible attacks by Iran, Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy said yesterday.

Saudi Arabia announced April 26 that it was severing diplomatic ties with Iran in response to Iranian riots in Makkah last summer and attacks on Saudi vessels in the Gulf.

The administration notified Congress the same day of its intent to sell Saudi Arabia \$500 million Bradley armoured troop carriers, tow anti-tank missiles and ammunition and to authorize a \$325 million contract to maintain A-7C fighter jets.

Murphy, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, told a House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Sub-committee that the administration had rejected concerns about the sale.

Murphy brushed aside these concerns and stressed that the sale would help the Saudis' defence, advance US-Saudi relations and prevent other countries from stepping in the Middle East.

"(The weapons) send a signal to all states in the Gulf that we will continue to help our friends defend themselves in the face of Iranian aggression," Murphy told the sub-committee on Europe and the Middle East.

Murphy cited progress in US-Saudi relations, noting that the Saudis had served as intermediaries for Shultz's recent Middle East peace proposal and had helped finance the Afghan rebels.

He said the Saudis last month

voiced by 245 members of Congress last month.

Letters circulated by Senator Howard Metzenbaum, and representative Charles Schumer, urged Secretary of State George Shultz to postpone or cancel the planned arms sale.

The legislators voiced concern about the recent disclosure that the Saudis had decided to buy Chinese intermediate-range ballistic missiles two years ago. Some members have argued that successive arms sales by China and the United States could affect the balance of power in the Middle East.

Signal

Murphy brushed aside these concerns and stressed that the sale would help the Saudis' defence, advance US-Saudi relations and prevent other countries from stepping in the Middle East.

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He said the Saudis last month

Iraq sacks 18 health officials

BAGHDAD, May 11. (Reuters): President Saddam Hussein has sacked 18 senior Health Ministry officials for incompetence and Iraq's Parliament has passed a no-confidence motion against the health minister, newspapers reported today.

The reports said eight directors-general were among those dismissed in a presidential decree which ratified a National Assembly censure of the Health Ministry for incompetence, negligence, inadequate emergency care and unclear hospitals.

The presidential decree made no mention of health minister Sadeq Hamid Allouhi who was also censured by the assembly.

Role of legal advice department

DR Abdul Rasool Abdul Rida, head of the department of legal advice and legislation stated that the department was established under the Amiri Decree No. 12 of 1960 to function as a specialised government legal authority.

The functions of the department include the formulation of draft laws recommended by the government services and agencies, draft laws and by-laws for legislative decrees, review official documents and draft laws, by-laws and executive decisions from the legal point of view.

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ROYAL COURT

Amiri audiences

HH the Amir yesterday received UAE State Minister for Foreign Affairs Rashed Bin Abdullah.

In the meeting, Bin Abdullah handed the Amir a letter from UAE President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan, but the contents of the letter were not revealed.

The meeting was attended by State Minister for Foreign Affairs Saoud Al Oaimi and UAE Ambassador to Kuwait Youssef Al Sogai.

Rashed arrived here yesterday on the first leg of a mission to a number of Gulf countries to deliver messages and hold talks with officials on current developments in the region.

Amir visits popular cafes

HH the Amir on Tuesday night toured the popular cafes and Union of Fishermen of small fishing boats and exchanged talks with those present at the time.

The Amir was accompanied by the Defence Minister, Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad, Sheikh Mishal Al Ahmad Al Jaber and Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber.

The Amir's tour falls in line with his accustomed yearly visits to public gatherings in the holy month of Ramadan.

Crown Prince audiences

HH the Crown Prince and Premier, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah received at his office at the Council of Ministers yesterday the State Minister for Services Affairs Issa Al Mazzi, the governor of Ahmadi, Sheikh Ali Al Sabah and head of the auditing bureau Faris Al-Waqayyan.

Sheikh Saad also received director of the public housing authority Dr Ibrahim Al-Shahin, chairman and board members of the Kuwaiti accountants and auditors association and Khaleel Youssef Al Marzuq.

Sheikh Saad also yesterday presided over a meeting for the Higher Defence Council in his office.

KUWAIT PRESS DIGEST

Chance for Arab concord

THE upcoming Arab summit conference is a chance to reach an Arab concord similar to the American-Soviet concord despite differences between the two sides, according to Daili Al Rai Al Qam published yesterday.

The daily said in its editorial that the return of Egypt, which restored its relations with most of the Arab countries recently, should be considered as the main condition to reach the Arab concord, adding that Egypt's isolation hurt Arab questions and exposed Arab politics to various crises and plots by the enemies of the Arab world.

The paper expected that Gulf states which restored relations with Egypt, would prepare the political atmosphere for Egypt's participation so that the Algiers meeting which is scheduled to be held at the beginning of next June would be a reason for oil-out Arab reconciliation.

The daily added that President of United Arab Emirates Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan who asserted the importance to restore relations with Egypt, is ready to play a vital role toward bringing Egypt back to the Arab ranks and breathing life in Arab solidarity and concord.

Amir's stand hailed

A WEEKLY Kuwait magazine yesterday hailed HH the Amir's stand as "truthful and void of hypocrisy."

Weekly Muroot Al Umma noted that the Amir's love for the country's customs and traditions was unquestionable, "you have grown with them and they have become part and parcel of your character."

The magazine, meanwhile, warned "the evil-doers are numerous and awaiting any chances to stoke Kuwait in any form."

It appealed to the Amir to cancel this year's Eid Al Fitr celebrations, adding such a decision would assure your people of your and the family's safety.

The magazine pointed to a similar decision that was taken to cancel ceremonies marking the commencement of the holy month of Ramadan for well known circumstances.

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Kuwait: Souk Al Gharaboli Al Mufhonna Complex - Mezzanine - Shop No. 13 Tel. 2462606 and the new branch in Fahaheel.

Al Dobous bldg. — beside Al Muzalini and the Union Trading Company.



● The drivers of these two cars were injured on Tuesday after a head-on collision on the Jahra Road opposite the Sulaibkhat cemetery. (Photo by Ahmed Al Burouni)

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ص.ب. ٢٩٥١ - ص.ب. ١٣٠٣٠ الكويت

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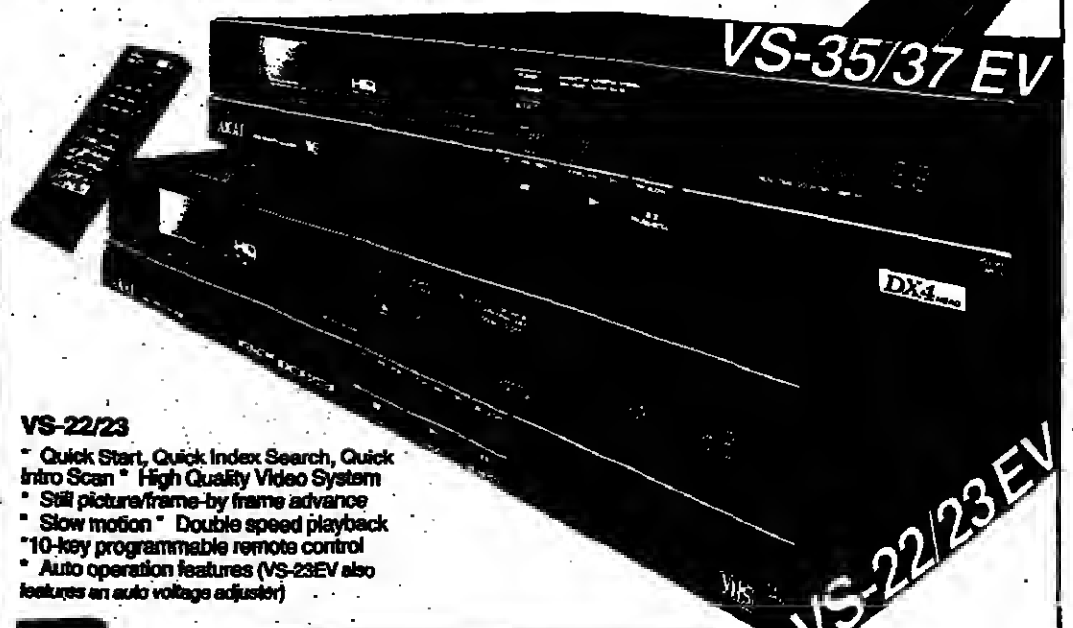
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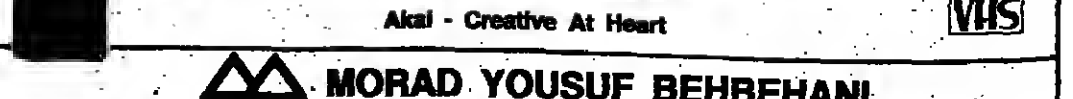
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Lacking in refinement



Table Talk

BY DINAH

I HAVE to admit that my experience of Japanese restaurants is somewhat limited. When we went to eat at the Kei restaurant in the Hilton Hotel, I took along a lot of preconceptions based on a Japanese restaurant in London that I'd visited years ago. On that occasion we had been led through shoji screen doors into a private room with polished wooden floor, where, kneeling on embroidered cushions at a low table, we had been served an exquisitely delicate meal by genteel Japanese "geisha". So when I walked into the Kei I was expecting something similar — understated, delicate, tranquil and aesthetically pleasing. I was disappointed.

The Kei is a surprisingly small restaurant which means that one is very aware of the other guests instead of being private. It is quite tastefully decorated in natural shades with rice paper screens, bamboo, plants and pagoda. One can either sit in comfortable chairs around roomy tables or watch the chef at the habachi. The Filipino and Sri Lankan waitresses wear kimono, but somehow the gentleness and refinement of true Japanese style is lacking, except, that is, in the subtly designed cockery. The menu offers a choice of everything from sushi and tempura to grilled dishes. We decided to try two of the set menus — "The Kei Special" and the "Golden Course" at KD10 each. I would advise against doing this unless you have an enormous appetite, as

we found that we could only eat a fraction of the food served. The meal began with bowls of delicately flavoured Japanese tea. Both menus served the same soup — a consommé with small pieces of chicken and spring onions. Both of us had the same appetizer too — small skewers of tender barbecued chicken in a subtle marinade.

For the next course, my guest was served a small bowl of finely shredded cabbage and carrot with other salad ingredients. The tempura which I had, was very disappointing, consisting of only two prawns, pieces of aubergine, onion and green pepper all coated in a heavy batter and accompanied by a very bland sauce. Far inferior to the tempura served in some of the Korean restaurants around town. The next dish on the "Golden Course" menu was an unappetizing looking plate of large chunks of bamboo, prawns, aubergine and crab sticks which were not only undercooked but also much too greasy. This was followed by a large, tender, very rare steak cut into small pieces and accompanied by a huge pile of fried vegetables. The Kei menu, on the other hand, served sushi. I had once eaten this in a Japanese home and remembered it as a very delicate dish. But at the Kei, one is presented with a huge tureen of vegetables, noodles and beef swimming in liquid. The beef, although finely sliced, is cut into large pieces and the whole resembles discoloured floating in washing up water.

The Japanese do not normally eat dessert after a meal so the only sweet offered at the Kei is vanilla ice-cream. On the whole, we were disappointed with the meal, but perhaps it would have been more enjoyable if we had not chosen the set menu but had ordered a selection of a la carte dishes instead. **RESTAURANT: Kei**
TYPE: Japanese restaurant of the Hilton
MEAL: Set menu dinner
PRICE: KD20 (for two)
Star rating: out of five:
FOOD: ***
ATMOSPHERE: ***
SERVICE: ***
VALUE FOR MONEY: ***

Cancer talk on VOA

THE Voice of America will broadcast worldwide in English a special live call-in show about cancer on Sunday, May 15, from 8:10 pm to 9:00 pm Kuwait time. From VOA studios in Washington, D.C., noted cancer specialists Dr. Kurt Civio, director of paediatric oncology at Johns Hopkins University, and Dr. Robert Fine, medical oncologist at the National Cancer Institute, will answer listeners' questions regarding the current

status of cancer research and how a personal diet can affect cancer, among other topics. "Cancer: Where is the cure?" will be moderated by VOA science editor Brian Cislak.

Listeners worldwide are encouraged to call VOA collect (no charge) at (202) 485-6306 weekdays between 2:00 to 11:00 pm Kuwait time until May 13 to arrange participation in the programme. Calls will be accepted prior to and during the programme on May 15.

Voice of America is airing the broadcast as a public health service to help listeners understand and deal with cancer through responsible scientific information.

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Fahad and Almadhi
Al Bastoor Pharmacy
Qais Al Ghanem Bldg.,
Dabbous St.

Farwana
Al Jazira Pharmacy
Hmoud Sanwan Bldg.,
Main St.

Jahra
Al Zahra Pharmacy
New Souk

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Boushabri Gallery
Oil and watercolour paintings by Yugoslav artist Jovica Prodanovic will be exhibited at the Boushabri Gallery, Salmiya, from May 23, 8.30 am to 12.30 pm and 4 to 8.40 pm.

Sultan Gallery
An exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Saa'di Abbas is open daily from 10 am to 1 pm and 7 to 10 pm at the Sultan Gallery, Thunayan Al Ghaqim Bldg., Al Soor St.

THEATRE

Sounds Great
Singers will be auditioned for a pop-rock musical "Sounds Great" 8 pm, May 14 (Sat.) at the Sunshine School, Salwa. The musical will be presented at the Salmiya Cinema on June 10. For details ring producer-director Ken Weston — 5740256/7 am or 5758870 pm.

Natya Bharati
Indian amateur dramatists, will present a Hindi play, Undersecretary, a comedy, on May 18, 7 pm at the Indian Arts Circle auditorium.

Kuwait Singers
"Songs for a Summer Evening" is the title of a concert by the Singers. It will be held on May 31 and June 1 at the UAS, Salwa. Tickets — KD2. For reservations ring 3940770 ext 57; 534873; 5740627 (answer service).

Kuwait Players
Antidote — a Kuwait Players show of quick fire adult comedy sketches ranging from the subtle to the plain crazy — an evening of laughter will be held nightly at 7.30 pm, until May 15 at the Universal American School, Salwa. Tickets KD3. For reservations call 5613465; 5610925 (pm) or 5611546 (pm).

I Got Rhythm
A musical show featuring Reem Yousef Kelani will be presented to the Grand Ballroom, Regency Palace hotel, on June 2, Thursday. Tickets — KD10 including dinner. Produced and directed by Glenis Muckle and Kerry Langley. All proceeds will be donated to the British charity Medical Aid for Palestinians to help Dr Pauline Gattling, OBE, and her team to provide medical care for refugees. For details call 2627003.

Konkani Drama
The Colva Dramatic Troupe will present a Konkani drama entitled "Mujem Dusrem Ghor" on May 20, 4 pm, at the Indian Arts Circle Funnies.

The play has been written by Rosary Fernandes. Performers include Mendes Brothers, Marcus Vaz, Xavier Gomes and Frank and Philip. For tickets contact Colva committee members.

KLT
KLT, Ahmadi, will present Brigadoon, a musical, on June 1, 7.30 pm, gala night. Further performances are at 8.15 pm on June 7, 8 and 9 and at 5.30 pm on June 23. Tickets KD 3. Children — KD2. For reservations ring 3983724.

SOCIAL

Open-House for Bangladeshis
The Bangladesh Ambassador will hold an "open-house" on Eid day from 10 am to 12 noon in Mishref, Block 6, House 58, Road 6, All Bangladeshis are welcome.

Danish Meeting
Daniella invites all Danish ladies to a coffee morning on Sunday, May 22, at 10 am, Arabic cooking will be demonstrated. For details call and registration call Anette — 3903480 before Friday, May 20.

PRAYERS

Fajr 3.28 am
Zohr 11.44
Asr 3.20 pm
Maghreb 6.32
Isha 7.58

FRIDAY
Fajr 3.28 am
Friday Prayer 11.44
Asr 3.20 pm
Maghreb 6.32
Isha 7.59

REQUIRED

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● A scene from Kuwait Players end of season revue, Antidote, performed nightly at 7.30 pm in the UAS, Salwa, until May 15. Directed by Carol Jolley, the revue is a series of light-hearted sketches taken from the best of British comedy.

Fleasick Cooking Class

The monthly Fleasick cooking class will be held at the Holiday Inn Hotel on Wednesday, May 25, 4 pm. For details call Rory — 2530000 F/B Office.

Mushaira
The Halqa Shaab-e-Adab, a literary society, will hold a poetry evening — mushaira — on May 19, Thursday, at the home of Abdal Ghaffar Naseer. M.D. Khan will be the chief guest and Omer Khatab from will preside.

May Queen
The May Queen will be crowned at the Sheraton Hotel, Grand Ballroom, on May 16. City Lights and Stepping Stones in attendance. Highlight of the evening is a fashion show by Tapati Ray. The event has been organised by the Kuwait Goans Association.

Kuwait Caledonians
"Ceilidh" will be held on May 26, Thursday, at the Holiday Inn Hotel; 7.30 pm for 8 pm. Entertainment from Scotland will be Bill Barclay. For reservations phone 5610673 or 5335082.

Summer Affair 88
The Weekend Club will host Summer Affair 88 at the Regency Palace Hotel on the first day of Eid, Al Fitr. Music by Next of Kid, Top Ranks and Apaches. A beauty-cum-talent contest (to select Summer Queen 88) will be held; lots of "surprises" and prizes. Dinner features Indian and Continental cuisine. For reservations call "Hilary" — 5740933.

YMCA Holiday Special
The Young Men's Cricket Association (YMCA) will hold the Holiday Special on May 17, Messiah Beach Hotel. Highlights are music by Top Ranks with special competitions such as Made for Each Other Contest, Funky King and Queen. For reservations contact Lancy — 4814914, 9 am to 4 pm, 3981790; 3929518, 5 to 8 pm.

CINEMA

British Council
Pinocchio, a timeless, unequalled film adventure for all people of all ages. An unforgettable cast of characters includes the spy Jimmy Cricket; kindly Gepetto, a terrifying whale named Monstro and, of course, the little puppet made of wood, Pinocchio. It will be shown today at 10.30 am at the British Council, Mansouriya. Duration: 84 minutes.

TEACHERS REQUIRED

To teach mathematics and computers to children and teenagers on a summer programme mid-June to mid-August. A good knowledge of English is an advantage. Send CV with contact telephone number to Summer School Director, P O Box 6304, 22073 Salmiyah, Kuwait.

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TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

10.00 Holy Quran
10.15 Cartoons
10.30 Mama Aoi and Children
11.10 Open University
12.05 Noor Al Huda: "Al Safaah" Starring: Hussain Abideen, Amina Rizk, Abu Bakr Ezzat, Laila Taber, Ibrahim Al Shaami.

1.00 News Summary
1.30 Tao Tao: cartoons
2.00 Zahrat Al Saif: historical serial, starring: Abdullah Ghaith, Hussein Fahmi.

3.00 Jarrooh: daily serial, starring: Zuhair Numan, Maha Saleh.

4.45 Sanawat Al Sabr: Arabic serial
5.30 Hadith Deeni: religious talk

6.30 Cartoons
6.45 After Ifar
7.00 Madinat Al Riyah: children's serial, starring: Khalid Al Obeid, Maryam Al Ghabban.

7.45 Bahatb An Al Saadah: weekly, Arabic serial, featuring Samir Ghanem.

8.30 With Islam
9.30 Ramadan Contest: hosted by Huda Hussein

10.00 News in Arabic
11.00 Musafir: daily serial, starring: Ghanem Al Saleh, Hayat Al Fahad.

12.45 Qahar Al Zaman: Arabic film, starring: Noor Al Shariff, Athar Al Hakim, Jamal Rateh, Khalid Zaki, Hussein Sharbin.

2.45 News Summary/ Jmsak/ Holy Quran/ Closedown

FRIDAY
10.00 Holy Quran
10.10 Cartoons
10.30 Children's Magazine: a programme for young viewers.

11.00 Hadith: religious programme, presented by Dr. Ahmadi Abdul Noor.
11.25 Friday Prayer from Grand Mosque



The Bill Cosby Show on KTV 2 tonight.

12.30 Min Wahi Ahi Dulamah: religious serial

1.00 News Summary
1.25 Tao Tao: cartoons
2.00 On Ramadan: religious programme

2.30 Al Maotimid Bin Ibad: historical serial
3.35 Al Jarrooh: daily serial

5.30 Hadith Deeni: religious talk by Sheikh Mohammad Muwalli Sharawi.

6.35 Cartoons
6.45 After Ifar
7.00 Madinat Al Riyah: children's serial

7.45 Kul Funoon: hosted by Rolah Al Farah
8.15 Wrestling
9.00 Deirat Al Khair: Charity

9.30 Ramadan Contest: News in Arabic
11.00 A talk show on Islam
12.00 Ja'alouni: Arabic play, starring: Ahmad Badr, Hassan Mustafa, Mimi Jamal, Sahar Rami.

2.20 News Summary
2.35 Holy Quran/ Close down

KTV 2

8.00 Holy Quran

8.10 Centurions: cartoons
8.30 The Mickey Mouse Club

9.00 News in English
9.40 Islamic Horizon: "The Forty Hadith".

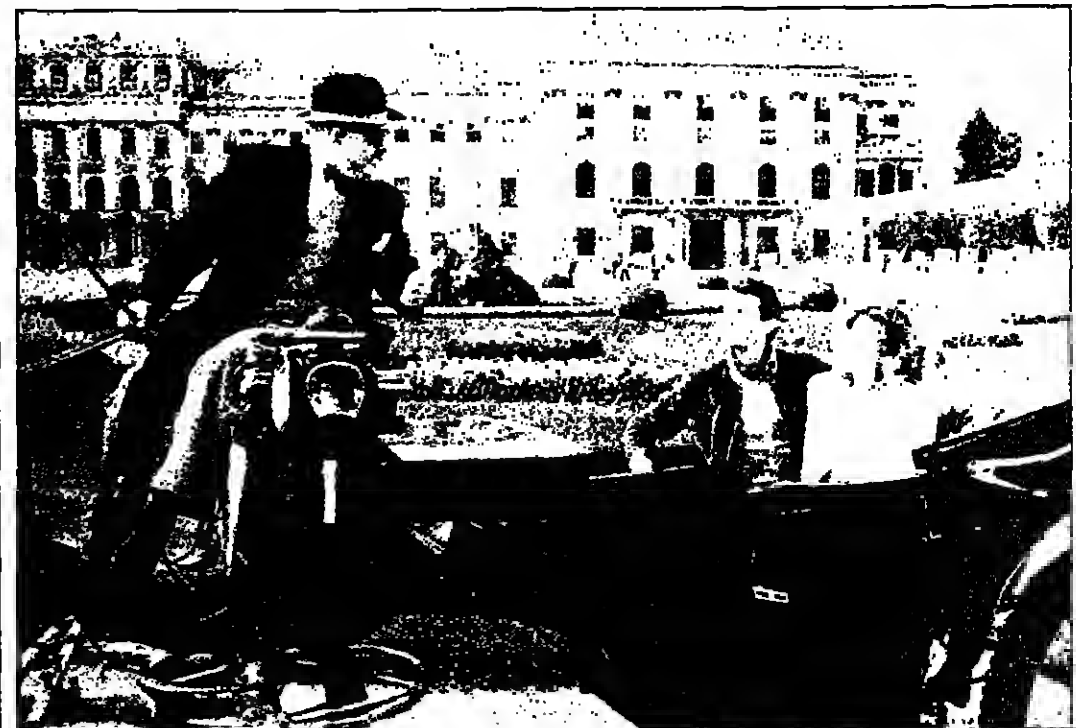
10.00 TV: Bloopers and Practical Jokes.
10.30 Spenser for Hire: "Shadow Sight". Spenser reunites Chertsey with her parents.

11.30 The Bill Cosby Show: "Shadow Only Hurt".



The Mickey Mouse Club, Friday's feature for children on KTV 2.

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

GOODNESS is the only investment that never fails —
Henry David Thoreau, US writer (1817-1862).

Israeli raid into Lebanon

Only a temporary relief from attacks

By Paul Taylor

TEL AVIV, (Reuters): A 48-hour Israeli strike into south Lebanon seems likely to bring only temporary relief from attacks on Israel's northern border and do nothing to calm a Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israeli commanders say the raid by an estimated 1,500 troops into southern Lebanon, close to Syria's front-line troops in the Lebanese Bekaa Valley, met all its objectives.

It cleared Israel's self-declared "security zone" of Palestinian commandos, wiped out dozens of Iranian-backed Hizbollah Shi'ite Muslim fighters in the village of Maidoun and warned Lebanese villagers against assisting the commandos.

It was the biggest Army incursion beyond the security belt in the three years since Israel withdrew most of its occupation forces from Lebanon after its 1982 invasion and set up the border buffer zone.

It was also the first time Israeli troops had launched a major attack on Hizbollah, tactically allied with Palestinian commandos in south Lebanon.

But while Israeli public opinion appeared to support a quick strike, many Israelis were worried at the risk of their country being sucked again into the Lebanese quagmire.

Israeli strategists say they expect attacks on the northern border to multiply this summer following the rapprochement between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Syria.

Damascus Radio, in a comment on the Israeli incursion monitored in Israel, said commandos would now respect attacks against Israel in the security zone.

Former chief of staff Rafael Eitan said he did not believe the Israeli raid would have any deterrent effect on Syria.

The Defence Ministry's top policy-maker on Lebanon, Uri Lubrani, said on television that Israel would have to carry out further raids if threats from the north continued.

Some Israeli commentators questioned the wisdom of taking on Hizbollah, which has largely limited itself in the last year to

attacking Israel's militia allies in the South Lebanon Army (SLA). But Chief of Staff General Dan Shomron said Hizbollah, trained by Iranian Revolutionary Guards in the eastern Lebanese Bekaa Valley, had long regarded Israel as its enemy.

Some Palestinians said the Lebanon raid, like the killing last month of Palestinian commander Khalil Al Wazir in Tunis, may have been staged to distract from a continuing Arab revolt against Israeli rule in the occupied territories.

"Obviously Israel is looking for ways to cover up the problems. The Israeli Army is much better on the battlefield than it is in coping with the intifada (uprising)," said East Jerusalem journalist and commentator Daoud Kuttab.

Israeli officials too say the Lebanon strike was part of a strategy of taking initiative on all fronts against Palestinian commando activity and unrest.

Army spokesman Colonel Ra'anan Gissio said Israel was not going to sit back and wait for more attacks by commandos on its northern border settlements.

"We take the initiative in order to prevent the situation from deteriorating," he said.

The Army has been attempting the same tactics to wring-foot Palestinian militants in the West Bank and Gaza, but with far less success.

Almost unnoticed while the Lebanon incursion was under way, Israeli troops killed at least five more Palestinians in the territories as violent protests continued against the occupation.

The violence is less widespread than in January or February but security sources expect it to flare again when the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan ends in mid-May.

One Israeli official privately said the Lebanon raid and the killing of Wazir, for which Israel has not officially acknowledged responsibility, were aimed partly at demoralising Palestinian protesters.

But if anything, they appeared to have further hardened their deep hostility to Israel, stoking fires of hatred that could burn for many more months in the streets of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Punjab crackdown spurs more violence

By Robert Mahoney

CHANDIGARH, India, (Reuters): Three years ago the question of India losing the war against Sikh separatists was unthinkable. Now it is asked continuously in Punjab by critics who say Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's policies have played into the hands of the extremists.

The more paramilitary troops the 43-year-old leader throws against the separatists in the northern Indian state, the more killings take place.

Well over 800 people have died so far this year in the worse upsurge of violence since a handful of gunmen began their fight for a Sikh homeland called Khalistan in the early 1980s. Last year, some 1,230 were killed in the violence.

Parts of the prosperous farming state are now war zones with homes abandoned along the Pakistani border where the authorities have started to build a fence to prevent men and arms crossing into India.

Armed militants have reoccupied the Sikhs' holiest shrine, the Golden Temple in Amritsar, from which the Indian Army drove them with tanks in June, 1984.

More than 70,000 police and paramilitary troops are now pitted against 300 to 400 extremists who operate mainly along the border. Thousands of Hindus have left their villages there this year for the safety of neighbouring Hindu-majority states.

Sikhs too have fled border areas to comparative safety in the towns. Many say they fear the police as much as the extremists.

Police have arrested thousands of young Sikhs on suspicion of having separatist links and Sikh leaders have publicly accused the police of killing Sikhs in custody.

Sikh politicians say heavy-handed policing is driving youngsters into the extremists' arms and have pleaded with Rajiv to

stop it. The response from New Delhi has been to administer more of the same harsh medicine.

One year ago Rajiv dismissed Punjab's moderate Akali Dal Party state government for failing to stop the killings. He appointed governor Siddhartha Shankar Ray to rule the state directly on behalf of Delhi.

Since then the number of killings has rocketed, promoting Rajiv to extend direct rule and arm himself with the power to declare an emergency in the state.

"Just because the situation is a little more serious it does not mean our policy isn't working," Ray said.

"To fact, it is because the policy is working that the situation has got worse," he said in an interview.

He said the extremists were desperately trying to create a rift between Hindus and the majority Sikhs in the state by stepping up the murder of innocent people.

That logic is lost on Sikh moderates like Balwant Singh, a minister in the dismissed government.

"This situation has been created by the wrong policies of the central government," he told Reuters.

"Since we were dismissed, extremists killings have gone up fivefold and they have obtained AK47 (rifles) and rocket launchers," he said.

Former police chief Julio Ribeiro's policy of matching the extremists' "bullet for bullet" had backfired, Balwant Singh said.

"Our policy was to bring the boys (gunmen) back into the mainstream," he said. Ribeiro, who was made Ray's chief adviser last month after heading the Punjab police since March, 1986, makes no excuses for the bullet-for-bullet approach.

"Is there any alternative to it? I don't see any country in the world having a different policy towards men who are killing innocent people," Ribeiro said in an interview.

Fishing in troubled waters

SIR: If Air-India wants to make both ends meet, it should do so not by milking the overstrained expatriates who are already hard hit by recession in the Middle East.

As an Indian national, I feel ashamed of my national carrier for fishing in troubled waters with the sole intention of filling its coffers. Instead of serving the interests of its nationals, AI has only exploited them whenever an opportunity arose.

For a long time, the Indian expatriates have been protesting without result against injustices meted out to them. Can AI cite just one instance where it has extended a facility by its own initiative without being under pressure?

Admittedly, the expatriates have all along been a green pasture to AI. What stops AI from applying such decisions in India itself as well as in other countries? How come AI is listed as one of the ten poorly rated airlines? Why is AI behind Indian government's refusal of landing rights for

other airlines from the Gulf at Trivandrum International Airport?

Air-India is losing money by carrying free and highly discounted passengers by way of its employees and relatives, and by allowing them extra luggage to be carried free of charge. If AI is in the red, they had better cut down on these complacent and stop malpractices towards ordinary passengers.

If the Indian community co-operates, it can surely bring the Air-India management to its senses.

C.S. Joe-Joe, Safat.

Uterior motive

SIR: We, the expatriates' wish to congratulate Dawood Bourseli, the air transport director of Civil Aviation, Kuwait, for explicitly interpreting the Amiri Decree No. 31, 1987, which governs air fares in Kuwait.

According to the Amiri Decree, no changes in air fares are permissible without prior

approval of the Civil Aviation Department. Furthermore, any change in air fares should be a unanimous decision of all carriers coming under the Civil Aviation.

Bourseli said that no prior approval of the directorate was sought to increase fares. This apparently is a direct contravention of the Amiri Decree. Stern action by concerned authorities, should be taken to prevent such unjustified and illegal acts in the near future.

Air-India boasts of its dedicated service to its passengers. Fleeing Indians, using full IATA fares as its facade, can in no way disguise its ulterior motive. Why is it that discounts only in the Kuwait-India sector have been discontinued?

Brian Fernandes, Safat.

Very bad planners

SIR: The spate of letters appearing in Arab Times is enough to make Air-India policy-makers realise they lack

farsightedness and that they are bad planners.

The announcement of the discontinuation of discounts soon after the Kuwait Airways plane hijacking and prior to Indians going on annual

holidays was not appropriate. Raising fares in the morning and withdrawing in the evening and raising again have left the fares' issue in a mess. Instead of finding ways to offer concessional fares and better air and ground services to attract more passengers, Air-India's initiative to raise fares is clear exploitation.

The expatriates in Kuwait heaved a sigh of relief when the Civil Aviation authorities declared the raise illegal. I express my deep gratitude to the authorities and appreciate their humane considerations. I feel if Air-India makes a world-wide appeal to Indians to fly by their national airline, it will definitely get positive results and thus wipe out its losses if any. Low income groups will then be spared any intolerable raises in fares.

Syed Manzoor Alam, Kuwait.

Strong-willed nation

SIR: Only a strong-willed people can make a great nation. The recent Kuwait Airways hijacking has shown Kuwait's will — a force to reckon with. Kuwait's story is a modern day version of David and Goliath, a legend that will be remembered by many generations to come.

In the past, pressure and blackmail have brought down many a mighty nation to its knees. Take France for example. But Kuwait has proved to the world its integrity. The unfortunate loss of two Kuwaitis shows to what extent the nation is prepared to go to protect its sovereignty, integrity and freedom.

Kuwait deserves salutations for standing its ground in the face of adversity.

Ted Alenao, Nuzha

Declining standard

SIR: The declining standard of the Pakistan International School can be attributed mainly to the insufficient atten-



tion paid to education and to the shallow-mindedness of the school's management.

For example, on the day results were announced, results of some students were withheld because of non-payment of their fees, while their parents waited anxiously, causing great confusion. This sort of attitude must be changed.

Abdul Rauf, Salmiya.

ALL letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

I'M WORRIED ABOUT HIS BEING UNDERSTOOD IN THE SOUTH



WE'LL HAVE TO COACH HIM TO SPEAK MORE SLOWLY...



TEACH HIM TO ENUNCIATE, GET HIM TO OPEN HIS MOUTH...



AND GIVE HIM SOMETHING TO SAY



Dukakis faces big hurdle to beat Bush

By Christopher Hanson

WASHINGTON, (Reuters): Massachusetts governor Michael Dukakis leads his likely Republican rival Vice-President George Bush in many opinion polls, but if the Democrat is to win the presidency he must surmount a major obstacle.

It is the electoral college system, established in 1787 to select US presidents. For 20 years it has worked so strongly to the Republicans' benefit that, in the words of one political expert, they have a virtual "electoral lock" on the presidency.

American voters do not directly elect the president. On Nov 8, voters in each state will choose electors — 538 in all. These electors, in turn, pick the president.

A candidate who wins a plurality of a state's popular vote generally garners all its electoral votes, which vary with population — California has 47, tiny Rhode Island four.

Break Due to population shifts since World War II, a majority of electoral votes are in conservative southern and western states that have been strongly prone to vote Republican in presidential races. It takes 270 electoral votes to win the White House.

Southern and western states accounting for 220 electoral votes have gone Republican in all

of the party's four presidential victories since 1968. The lone break in this pattern came in 1976 when a number of southern states were captured by Democrat Jimmy Carter, a southerner.

Carter, the only Democratic president in the past 20 years, also benefited from anger at the Watergate scandal. In the past nine presidential elections, 39 of the 50 states voted Republican most of the time.

"The electoral college gives us a very significant advantage," said Republican political consultant Eddie Mahe.

Advantage

"Republicans have 15 or 20 states where they don't have to do much of anything or spend much money to win — Rocky Mountain states, plains states, Indiana," Mahe told Reuters.

He predicted that, harrising a grave unforeseen setback, Bush would trounce Dukakis with a 350-vote electoral majority.

Dukakis, who is widely seen as the certain Democratic nominee, says he is confident he can beat Bush.

And despite Bush's electoral college advantage, many Democrats and independent analysts agree Dukakis could win.

They say voters are anxious for a change after eight years of

Republican rule under President Reagan.

In several polls this year, respondents have said they would prefer a Democratic president, and a recent Gallup survey put Dukakis ahead of Bush 49 to 44 per cent.

An ABC News poll last September showed 55 per cent wanted a president who would propel the country away from Reagan's policies in a new, less conservative direction.

Stuart Rothenberg, a political analyst with the conservative Free Congress Foundation, said the 1988 issue agenda appeared to favour the Democrats.

"You don't hear people talking about the need for tougher defence, an important Republican issue. You don't hear them talking about tax cuts, an important Republican issue."

"There's uneasiness about the economy, concern about the elderly and disabled, day care, education, the environment — any and all of these are Democratic issues."

Chance

Rothenberg gave the Democrats at least an even chance of recapturing the White House, pointing to polls suggesting Bush would not do well with key swing voters — Democrats and independents who had voted for Reagan in 1984.

Exit polls taken in the recent Indiana and Ohio primaries showed that more than two thirds of the Democrats who backed Reagan in 1984 favoured Dukakis over Bush in 1988.

Republican presidential candidates have dominated the conservative south in recent elections and in 1984 Reagan carried every southern state by a big margin.

But many analysts think northern Dukakis could make inroads there if he chose a southern running mate and if the south's many black Democrats turned out.

Voting trend expert Kevin Phillips said the Republican coalition was weak on its fringes — the far west, where Dukakis might carry Oregon and Washington state, and in economically hard-hit Midwest farm states such as Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, and Ohio.

He noted that Dukakis was leading Bush by 50 to 40 per cent in California, a key state that could prove decisive.

Analysts are sharply split on whether Democratic presidential candidate Jesse Jackson, who ran a strong race before Dukakis pulled ahead, would help or hurt his party.

Jackson, a black, has been widely deemed unelectable because of his race and left-of-centre views.

Hungary's prime minister feels

Time for Kadar to go

By David Lewis

BUDAPEST, (Reuters): Will Janos Kadar leave office?

Seventy-six on May 26, Kadar has led Hungary since the abortive anti-Communist uprising of 1956. But now Prime Minister Karoly Grosz — one of Hungary's Gorbachev generation — is biding heavily that it is time for him to go.

"Big trees dry out..." the 57-year-old premier told British journalists last week, adding that "long shadows" cast by big trees made it difficult for talented younger people to grow up.

He also said it was natural nor himself, ideologists Janos Berecz and People's Patriotic Front (PPF) leader Imre Pozsgay to be mentioned as leading candidates for the succession.

One journalist asked if an alternative to cutting down or digging up a "big tree" might be to create the post of an honorary big tree.

"I can conceive of what you have been referring to," Grosz replied, alluding to suggestions that Kadar could be given a new honorary post — "honorary big tree" — that is, do

1956 announcement that Hungary was leaving the Warsaw Pact sparked a Soviet invasion.

An extraordinary conference is scheduled to last three days from May 20, and is called ostensibly for the party to endorse accelerated economic reform and adjust the role of ideology, the party and political institutions accordingly.

But leading Hungarian dissident Miklos Haraszti told Reuters Grosz had called it in a deliberate move to oust Kadar.

Although he has led Hungary through reforms unique for a communist country, Kadar is now seen as resisting more radical changes sought by Grosz and especially by Pozsgay, whose PPF is an umbrella organisation representing non-party bodies. Kadar at first appeared to outmanoeuvre Grosz by taking charge of the conference's organising committee, Haraszti said.

Responsibility

But the PPF, Academy of Sciences and party groups all over Hungary have criticised the conference as inadequate in substance and scope.

In detail, Kadar has not been assailed directly in state newspapers, but several leading party members have made coded calls for him to go, by talking of politicians' "taking responsibility" for problems like soaring debt and falling living standards.

"The issue of responsibility, and how it is interpreted, is a key to the conference," one Western diplomat said.

Grosz himself said in an interview with the government daily Magyar Hirlap on April 28 that politicians should be able to withdraw if "biological laws" sapped their abilities, adding: "We need people who are able to handle the conflicts."

Crucifixion

These and other remarks, while "stopping short of direct calls on Kadar to go, amount to unprecedentedly open criticism of a communist leader and reflect a growing feeling within the party that Kadar should relinquish the reins of power."

For his part, Kadar seems less than anxious to go. He told US television in an interview over the weekend that he was willing to give up power if the party wished, but that he had no plans to do so just yet.

Several Hungarian sources say he is clinging to office for fear retirement might be followed by open questioning of his role in execution of Imre Nagy, whose

If direct criticism of Kadar remains taboo in the public press, this has not been so in the many recent local party meetings called to discuss the draft conference document.

Grosz said last week that Kadar's leadership had been raised at all local meetings he had attended.

Of the delegates chosen to attend the conference — one for every 1,000 of the party's 820,000 members — he added:

"It will be up to them to decide whether they would prefer to count on the activities of Janos Kadar as general secretary of the party or prefer to choose somebody else."

Resignation Talk that Kadar might step down at the conference was boosted by the December resignation of Czechoslovak Communist Party leader Gustav Husak, Kadar's almost exact contemporary.

The feeling until recently was that Kadar would remain as general secretary until the next full party congress in 1990.

But perceptions are changing rapidly as May 20 approaches. "The atmosphere of the party rank and file is very dangerous," Haraszti said. "I personally don't think Kadar will survive it at least that is a possibility. It is a fantastically open conference."

One senior party source told Reuters recently he rated the chances of a change at the very top as "50-50."

Asked if the party was seriously considering a successor to Kadar at the conference, or whether the problem would be "wallpapered over for another two years," Grosz said this week: "The party is thinking, and I would be more confident in my answer if you asked me after May 10, when the central committee will be in session to sum up the debate on the conference."

Piracy still a problem in South-East Asian waters

By Jose Katigbak

SINGAPORE, (Reuters): Piracy in South-East Asia waters appears to be on the decline but the situation remains as dangerous as ever for those forced to run the gauntlet in the pirate alleys of the Gulf of Thailand and the Sulu Sea.

In the Gulf of Thailand, Vietnamese refugees fleeing their communist homeland with whatever valuables they have are especially vulnerable to attacks in their rocky boats.

Six Vietnamese "hoat womeo" who were kidnapped and gang-raped by pirates for 11 days earlier this year lived to tell the tale. Rescued by an ocean liner and brought to Singapore, they were flown to Bangkok by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to testify against pirate suspects.

In the Sulu Sea off the southern Philippines, heavily armed pirates riding fast, motorised outriggers prey with near impunity on fishermen in small boats, inter-island ferries and unarmed boats carrying barter goods between Malaysia and the Philippines.

Decline

Statistics show piracy to be on the decline in waters jointly patrolled by neighbouring countries. Attacks against ocean-going vessels are rare and classified more as robbery than piracy.

Elsewhere the story is different. Malaysia and the Philippines, still in the midst of a territorial dispute over the East Malaysian state of Sabah, do not operate common border patrols and the Philippine coast guard, equipped

with only a few tug-like boats admits it cannot cover the enormous coastline in the area.

According to the international shipping federation, attacks against ocean-going vessels in South-East Asia generally occur while ships are passing through the Malacca and Singapore straits. The ships are forced to slow down because of the dangerous rocks and reefs in the area, making them vulnerable to pirates.

But close cooperation between Indonesia and Malaysia and Singapore has brought the piracy problem under control.

Police

Indonesian authorities said stepped-up joint police and military patrols halved piracy incidents last year to 60 from 120 in 1986.

In West Malaysia there were only six reported piracy cases last year within the port anchorage area extending to 10 miles from the dock.

The director of the Singapore Marine Department, Teh Kong Leong, said incidents usually occurred in the vicinity of Philips Channel south of Singapore in Indonesian waters or Horsburgh Lighthouse about 30 miles east of Singapore.

He said most of the attacks, loosely classified in reports as "piracy," were in fact simple robberies and occurred outside Singapore waters. The number of attacks was very small in relation to an estimated 6,000 ships that pass through the Singapore straits each month, he said.

The pirates clamour up a ship's stern using grappling hooks, head straight for the master's cabin, take the cash from the ship's safe and make off with any other valuables the crew may have.

"They're more of a nuisance than anything else. The amounts involved are minimal and there is no loss of cargo or a delay in the ship's timetable," Teh said.

A Thai marine police spokesman said some ships anchored at the mouth of the Bangkok port estuary have been robbed "by petty thieves, but I wouldn't call them pirates."

An Indonesian police spokesman said local pirates were usually armed with swords and daggers and nobody had been reported killed in recent years.

He said the worst known case happened in 1982 when a gang of Indonesian pirates, armed with rifles and a pistol, killed nine Indonesian sailors aboard a cargo ship sailing in the straits.

Officials agree that the only way to prevent pirate attacks against ocean-going vessels is to alert the crew, strengthen night watches, maintain short-range radar surveillance of the waters round the ship and make available water hoses to repel potential boarders.

Civilised

While pirates in the Malacca and Singapore straits are generally more "civilised," their cousins in the Sulu Sea or the Gulf of Thailand are a different breed.

In the seas off the southern Philippines pirates, descended perhaps from those who once preyed on gold-laden Spanish galleons, still throw men overboard and steal their boats.

Pirates in the Gulf of Thailand prey almost exclusively on helpless Vietnamese boat refugees. Survivors of pirate attacks in 1986 reported 129 refugees murdered or maimed and 90 abductions or rapes of women.



Innocents abroad

By Keith Wells

Last year on the airplane from UK I met a man who was on his way to start work here at very good pay. He turned to me and began to say: "What's it like, are the girls all nice, are there lots of camels, or rats, or mice?" Does the heat and dust ever make you sick? A thousand questions he tried to ask. While I tried to answer, a hopeless task, I met him again, by chance, last week. He simply glared and did not speak. "Hello," I said. "Is life okay?" But I have to censor what he had to say. While driving down the Fifth Ring Road I met a truck with a heavy load. A hundred toilets stacked so high. Each time he swerved they began to fly. Right down the road at speed he rushed. While those behind him soon were flushed by a constant hail of porcelain, dropping about us like falling rain. Nobody knew quite what to do, or how to avoid a crashing loo. When he'd finished this tale of woe

I said, 'I told you about the traffic flow'

But then he started another complaint. "The bureaucracy makes me feel so faint. I was in an office just last week. I sat for hours without no-one to speak to or advise me what I was supposed to do with all my papers. I only heard sheno or boukra, boukra all the time till in the end I thought that I'm going to have a fit of madness. And do a thing of terrible badness to the very next man who gives me sorrow by saying tomorrow and tomorrow. 'Take it easy, friend,' I cried, in case he had a stroke and died."

But I needn't have worried he started again raving and screaming in range and pain. "The worst of all is when I finish work go home to watch telly and some jerk bores every person in the nation with some guff about his bilateral relation

droning on and on and on, till all my patience has fled and gone, about nothing at all except hot air, when all the time I couldn't care a flying fil for all this twaddle so off to bed alone I toddle

and that's another thing you didn't mention the awful lack of female attention it's like a hollow in my heart. Even on telly they spring apart whenever it looks like they might kiss. I'm worried that I will act like this when I get home and find a girl and take her out for a romantic whirl fold her in my arms and then PIFF! push her back two yards again!"

I left him then and went away there really wasn't much to say, for the happy fact I'm leaving soon made it hard to hear him croon "Why? Oh why, is it all like this? Where on earth can I find bliss? And I could only say, 'My dear, the answer is, not here, not here.'

The Art Buchwald Column

A wing and a prayer

DOT is out to get us because we keep cancelling flights.

"That's just part of it. I think they're also made because you won't refuel your planes."

"I'm just trying to save some money. Do you know in order to buy the company I had to sell junk bonds? Now I'm in a bind. I either have to pay the interest on the junk bonds or buy new tyres."

"The word on the tarmac is that you can't afford to buy new airplanes."

"No one can buy new airplanes. Our craft are good for another 10 years. Ask the pilots."

"The pilots say you're the worst manager in the airline business."

"That's because they're the worst pilots."

"If they're the worst pilots, why are they flying your planes?"

"I'm not going to buy

uniforms for an entire new crew. How much do you think I owe on Wing and a Prayer?"

"A billion?" I guessed. "You're not far off. Do you believe I can pay it off by sending half-empty planes to Toledo?"

"Probably not. But you could worry a little about people's luggage."

"I plan to as soon as the FAA gives me permission to fly with one less engine."

"That's your game plan?"

"You don't need four engines on a 747. Our aviation experts have assured me three will do the job every time."

"I'm not certain you're going to get that one through the government inspectors."

"That's why I wish to buy an ad. I want to take my case to the public."

"Is it true you're doubling your price on



airline tickets this spring?"

"We had to do it to pay for all the free rides we gave people for flying with us this winter. We gave away so many bonus miles that we haven't booked one paying passenger for the next six months."

"Maybe that's why you don't have any money for baggage handlers."

"Look, I welcome this investigation. It will bring out the facts once and for all on how O'Hare Airport is sticking it to the little guy. This country is going to be a sorry place when the government starts to tell us what food to serve on an airplane and permits passengers to make a big deal about spending two or three hours on the runway."

1988, Los Angeles Times Syndicate

SCHIZOPHRENIA A MENTAL DISORDER, NOT 'SPLIT PERSONALITY'

FAMILY DOCTOR
By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

QUESTION: What is schizophrenia? Everything I have ever heard about it was bad. It sounds frightful.

ANSWER: It can be. More people are hospitalized because of schizophrenia than either heart disease, cancer or arthritis, yet, in many ways, it is still an unknown and feared disease.

Schizophrenia is a mental disorder that is accompanied by delusions, hallucinations, disturbances in thinking and communication, and deteriorating social functioning. It is not a "split personality." Basically, a schizophrenic cannot tell the difference between what is real and what is not real. Many schizophrenics may think they are being persecuted and plotted against and may react accordingly. This reaction may appear irrational, but it makes sense within the schizophrenic's version of reality.

Several types of schizophrenia exist, including paranoid schizophrenia, where the person has delusions, hallucinations and feels persecuted. Other schizophrenics are catatonic, which means unresponsive.

Schizophrenia usually starts to show up between the ages of 15 and 25. The person's

personality may change and they may start acting or talking irrationally. They may start having hallucinations and hear voices that "tell" them to do things. Their senses may start to become distorted.

For many years, no one knew the causes of schizophrenia, but research is starting to uncover some possibilities. There is some evidence that this is a genetic disorder, because a tendency toward schizophrenia appears to run in families. Another theory holds that it may be caused by a slow-acting virus that takes years to show its effects. Research also has shown that schizophrenics have an excess of a chemical called dopamine in their brains. At the same time, scientists now know that schizophrenia is not caused by improper upbringing or an emotional crisis, although such a crisis may bring on the disorder in a susceptible person.

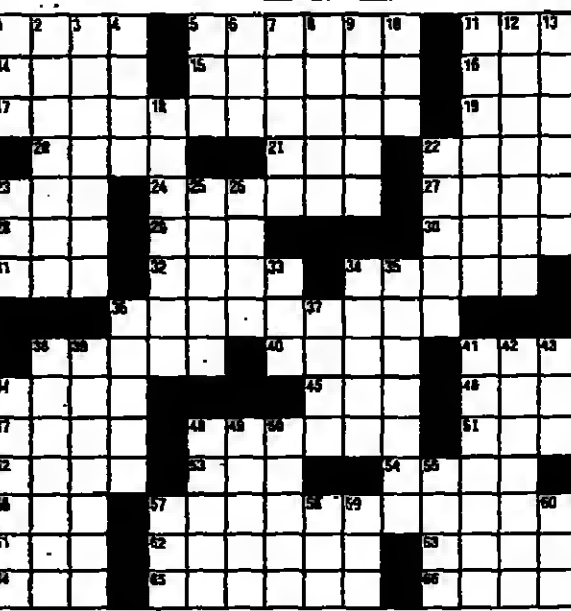
Schizophrenia can be treated in several ways, but unfortunately, there is no cure. The basic treatment is medication, which can control symptoms such as delusions, thought disorders, and hallucinations. However, the side effects of these medica-

tions, which are all in a class called phenothiazines, can be unpleasant. Psychotherapy is also extremely useful in helping a patient learn the difference between real and unreal. The patient's family also may benefit from therapy to help understand and deal with the patient and, with their newly gained understanding of the disease, reduce this frightening disease into something that can be dealt with.

I THOUGHT YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW: Scoliosis is condition that strikes our young people during their growing ages of 10 to 15 and creates a curvature in the spine. About one in 10 may develop a mild form of the disease, while about two in 100 will be afflicted with a progressive condition that requires medical attention. You may know of the impact such a deformity may have, as besides the physical, youngsters must deal with the emotional disability, which continues on into adulthood. But there are treatments, and there is hope, and once again, early detection and care is the secret.

1988 TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES, INC.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS
- Expensive
 - Wayne movie of 1962
 - Sculling implement
 - Christians, today
 - Titan's spouse
 - A Grant
 - Mile deep national park
 - Many nos.
 - Box elder is one
 - Rested
 - Friend, in Paris
 - Architect lech
 - Ming
 - Quivering poplars
 - Bridge
 - Pub beverage
 - Ending with Bronx or Brooklyn
 - Dam problem
 - Lady's man
 - Average
 - Peepers
 - Solar reflector
 - Home
 - Long Beach or New York
 - Law prof., perhaps
 - Seed covering
 - Golf course
 - Two or more aras
- DOWN
- Modern composer John
 - Tossed
 - Sine — non
 - Popular advisor
 - Sound of laughter
 - Travel
 - Stamp
 - Oldest national park
 - Author Fleming
 - Microscopic animal
 - Juan's aunts
 - English y or at
 - Clog with a wooden sole
 - Pepper's partner
 - Poland China, for one
 - Citizen of Haifa
 - National park on the Pacific
 - Forward passes
 - Feel
 - Indignation
 - Exhausted
 - Cash, for one
 - Faux —
 - Light wrap
 - "La —": Dukas score
 - Swab
 - Broadcast
 - Certain licenses
 - Doughnuts, for example
 - Spanish explorer
 - Hernando de —
 - Kind of horse
 - National park on the Mexican border
 - National park of the giant trees
 - Magazine
 - Biol. topic
 - National park on the Atlantic
 - Essay topic
 - Spartan sart
 - Rant again
 - Met's relatives
 - Dog noise
 - Service award, in the UK
 - Falld
 - Winter hrs. in 44 Down

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

TOO EARLY TO HELP

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ A K Q 10 5
♥ 10
♦ 9 8 6 5 2
♣ 8 3

WEST
♠ 9 8 6 2
♥ 7 3
♦ A K J 7
♣ J 9 6

EAST
♠ J 4 3
♥ 8 6 4
♦ Q 10 4
♣ K Q 5 2

SOUTH
♠ 7
♥ A K Q J 9 5 2
♦ 3
♣ A 10 7 4

The bidding:
South 1♥ West 2♣ North 2♥ East 3♥

Opening lead: King of ♦

A strong suit in dummy poses a serious menace to the trick-taking ability of the defenders. The only way to neutralize it is to attack the table's entries. A spectacular example of what might be necessary is provided by this hand from a tournament in Mexico City.

West's two-diamond overall would seem strange to many readers of this column. However, in tournament bridge it is by no means unusual for players to make aggressive overcalls for lead-directing purposes. When his partner could bid freely over the intervention, South asked for aces and decided to gam-

ble out six hearts when he found his partner had one.

Sitting West was Mexico's leading player, Dr. George Rosenkranz. He led the king of diamonds and East played the four, to discourage his partner from trying to cash another diamond. The point of no return had been reached.

Dummy's spade suit posed an obvious threat. From his own hand, West could tell that it would surely produce five tricks for declarer if he were given time to utilize the suit at his leisure. Although dummy had no side-suit entry to the spades, West found another way to render the suit harmless—he shifted to a spade!

Declarer was left without recourse—he was forced to cash the spade suit before he drew trumps. Since he could get no more than two discards before a defender ruffed, he was stranded with a club loser. Down one.

Notice that West's spade shift at trick two couldn't cost. Declarer was marked with solid hearts and the ace of clubs. If he held more than one spade, the defense was doomed.



"He had such a nasty turn—went almost as grey as one of your sheets."

THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

<p>Aries (March 20 - April 18)</p> <p>The moon's less favourable influence will lead to ups and downs in your mood. You will not be able to get your way in all things. Avoid engaging in gossip and do not spread rumours. Be resolute.</p>	<p>Cancer (June 21 - July 21)</p> <p>Today you will be in better shape to meet your commitments. Gemini's influence will help you to enhance your prestige. You will find it easier to persuade others. Be polite.</p>	<p>Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)</p> <p>You will be able to state your point of view more forcibly. You should make sure you are not making a nuisance of yourself. Do not go to bed so late that you wake up feeling abysmally tired. Be reasonable.</p>	<p>Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan 19)</p> <p>You should not take everything quite literally and you should remember your sense of humour. You will have greater freedom of action but you should not take too much for granted. Think a little longer before you decide. Be a little more reticent.</p>
<p>Taurus (April 19 - May 19)</p> <p>Do not expect everyone to behave as though you were the only person that mattered. You will have a rather good idea, but you will not be the first to have had it. Make sure you do not leave any commitments undecided with. Be reliable.</p>	<p>Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)</p> <p>You should not allow yourself to exaggerate or should you take too much for granted. Do all you can to avoid confusion and do not jump to conclusions. There is no need to feel sorry for yourself. Be considerate.</p>	<p>Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)</p> <p>You should not allow some secondary matter to take up too much of your time. Do not think you are the only one that matters or the only one who has any good ideas. You should make quite sure your health does not suffer as a result of your eating habits.</p>	<p>Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)</p> <p>You should avoid making any promises which would be difficult to keep to try to give others the benefit of any doubt. The better influence of Venus and Mercury will help you to do the right thing. Be more affectionate.</p>
<p>Gemini (May 20 - June 20)</p> <p>There is no need for you to have doubts about your abilities. Something you are not quite sure about will soon come to a resolution. You should avoid allowing your resentments to become too vehement. Be a little more tolerant.</p>	<p>Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)</p> <p>Do not just allow things to happen. Make sure you do not do anything that might lead to a quarrel with your partner. Avoid taking a too negative view of things. Be a little more optimistic without being glib.</p>	<p>Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)</p> <p>You will feel a little more aggressive than usual and should control yourself. Do not expect others to do just what you would like them to. Avoid making too many demands on yourself or on others. Be correct.</p>	<p>Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)</p> <p>You will be able to get things done today. You should not think that you are the only one that matters. Make sure you do not try to repair anything the workings of which you do not quite understand. Be trustworthy.</p>

By Anne McElvay

"WHEN the preservation of human life depends on the attainment of water, the supply to be found in the stomach of a camel should not be overlooked. Camels are plentiful in Yemen." I am indebted to the 19th-century explorer Thomas Baines for sending me on my way to the Yemen Arab Republic with that rather doleful piece of advice — after all, information about the Middle East's most sheltered child is not easy to come by.

Nothing could have prepared me for my first encounter with the capital Sana'a, where the once-plentiful camels had obviously been traded in for Toyotas. At 9,000 feet Sana'a is Arabia's highest capital and the altitude made the slightest slope seem like a glacial sheet. The combination of thin air and a constant cacophony of squawking horns ensures that the Yemeni assaults rather than greets visitors.

And yet, travelling here still brings the thrill of intrepidity which is becoming scarce elsewhere, an impression aided by the pieces of paper we were handed by the British ambassador requesting, in diplomatic Arabic, that we be allowed easy passage in our travels — the kind of safety measure that convinces one that let and hindrance are to be the order of the trip.

Sana'a received us with indolent curiosity, the women staring in open curiosity at my freckles. Some children, less reserved, showered us in stones and shouted "Nazareni!" — "Christian" — with some venom. It did not seem the time or the place to argue one's agnosticism.

Tahrir Square marks the centre of the capital, where a colossal arch in tasteful pastel pink and blue commemorates the victory of the Glorious Revolution 25 years ago. I gather that it is in extremely bad taste in Yemen to refer to the revolution without its prefix. Standing out against the minarets and towering mediaeval houses with minute windows, the memorial puts the civic designs of the most malign urban planner to shame, its incongruity enhanced by the fact that, until very recently, public executions took place beneath its pastel portals.

Sana'a is a maze which no

Yemen: safe from the cultural imperialism of hamburgers



Minarets and towering mediaeval houses dot the skyline in Sana'a. At 9,000 feet, Sana'a is the Middle East's highest capital.

map and very few inhabitants ever completely disentangle, but sooner or later all paths lead to the souk and indeed, the souk is where it's at — all human and animal life gathered to trade, eat, gossip and shout. Silence is rare in the Yemen. "They make such dreadful household servants," one businessman's wife told me sorrowfully. "So noisy — all mountain people, you see."

In the souk, coffee merchants chant the morning's prices against the tape-recorded walls of Egyptian songstresses. At the Bab al Yemen — the Gate of Yemen — entrance, we eat delicious herb omelettes accompanied by the familiar syrupy Yemeni tea. Silver merchants languidly display filigree baubles and kohl jars, and motion to me to try silver bracelets the size of Western children's bangles.

With my Amazonian wrists

and absurd light clothes, I feel suddenly elephantine among the black-veiled women. Attempts at haggling miscarry when it transpires that the merchants are chewing their qat and find the whole business rather tiresome.

Qat, a private-like plant stimulant, is the economic mainstay of North Yemen; a national institution which accounts for 80 per cent of crops grown — and all afternoons. Once the bulge appears in the nation's cheek just after noon, a pall of enjoyment falls over the country and activity ceases. In the neighbouring Marxist People's Democratic Republic of South Yemen, qat consumption is limited to two days a week in a desperate attempt to stimulate the dormant economy. This, I was told, is seen in the North as an intolerable oppression.

Yemenis were the targets of

Waugh's satire in his account of his Aden days. When the Going was Good: "Their expressions degenerate and slightly doty, an impression which is accentuated by their loping, irregular gait."

But the most beautiful old men I have ever seen were in Yemen: like the 75-year-old arms dealer in the northernmost city of Sa'ada with his bejewelled jambia hoisted into his belt along with the Kalashnikov bullets (Kalashnikovs are de rigueur).

Sa'ada is the last town before the Empty Quarter begins — the disputed terrain of North Yemen and Saudi Arabia and, as ever in the last outposts of civilisation, there was the inevitable Englishman, this time a vet. His job consisted mainly in performing pregnancy tests on cows and explaining the lack of calves to disappointed owners.

Our day spent with him included a visit to a Turkish fortress of the Islamic period and another to a constipated camel, before the homeward trail to Sa'ada across red sand plains, where the sun dropped suddenly below the horizon like a fireball held carelessly on a string.

Roadside cafe food stops were always a source of trepidation. Usually a concoction of ground beans, disarmingly christened fowl, would appear with hot bread.

Transport

Otherwise, omelettes and hummus were the culinary highlights, for the Yemen has yet to be seduced into catering for its handful of tourists. It must also be one of the tiny number of sanctuaries safe from the cultural imperialism of McDonald-you-know-who.

Transport between the three

main cities of Sana'a, Hodedsh and Ta'iz was easy enough, with buses leaving twice daily. We waltzed along precipices, gazing from the bus windows on to never-ending, intricate patch-works of qat terraces, wonder and fear combined in equal quantities. More than once, the balance was tipped by the sight of Toyota carcasses at the bottom of steep slopes.

"Too many qat," said my neighbour laconically.

We arrived in the former capital of Ta'iz in the south at nightfall, when the whole city appeared to have been strung with rings of twinkling lamps in a divine celebration of light. It was revealed more prosaically next day to be an effect of the town being built on the two slopes of an acute valley, so that the lights appeared to spiral closer and closer together. But the former seat of the Imam still bore the hallmarks of a certain

style. Restaurants here were more luxurious, with menus unrivalled in the capital. The palace of the ousted princes was a treasure trove of valetudinarian trivia, with the Imam's footbaths, decongestant and toe-nail softener displayed lovingly on velvet.

This, we were reminded by our official guidebook, was the man who "subjected the country to despotic autocratic rule and to hateful exploitation and control." His son, not fancying his chances at marching the wrong way up the one-way street of progress, fled to Bromley, where he leads the Kenilworth life to this day.

When attempts to understand the topsy-turvy world of local politics become too mind-boggling, a trip to the Tihama, the coastal plain which runs along the Red Sea from the Gulf of Aden in the south to the

Saudi border in the north, is recommended. With its large Ethiopian and Sudanese population, the Tihama resembles an African outpost in the middle of Arabia, where unveiled women wear gaily coloured cotton petticoats.

The Tihama is the poorest region of North Yemen, left to its own devices by central government which prefers to hand over the problems of infant mortality and negligible health care facilities to concerned outsiders. Aid agencies have been welcomed in Yemen but all have found her to be a cantankerous hostess. One health care worker told me that her medical supplies were prone to mysterious disappearance en route, only to turn up on local chemists' shelves.

"If we have learned one thing," this volunteer said, "it is not to set up clinics in places where the local chief is also the apothecary."

Mareb, desert city and ancient capital, was home of the Yemen's best known alumna, the Queen of Sheba. The "land between two gardens" was the seat of the ancient Saba dynasty and the 3,000-year-old dam is mentioned in the Quran.

Today, Mareb has a modern dam and the country's first oil refinery, producing 9,000 barrels a day. It is believed that a second plant is planned to render the country self-sufficient. The economy, which has functioned on the stable, lethargic basis of qat-produced wealth, is set to undergo major upheaval.

How the country which cynics say has been dragged kicking and screaming into the 20th century will react to the late 20th century is uncertain. Even now, "bestial" practices can be witnessed among the tribes. Mareb, however, is still more pillars than a man.

On a final pilgrimage to Sana'a, the highest village in North Yemen, we took a drive in the daily Toyota truck and, on the low slopes, passed a domkey, heavily laden with rice, food, pots and baskets. The stony track wound upwards, ever steeper, past villages where children stared and women silently gathered water. We arrived some three hours later, bruised, shaken, exhausted. The donkey, it emerged, had been a good horse.

Welsh wonders on the Orient Express

By Bob Barton

EVEN Agatha Christie's brilliant detective Hercule Poirot would be puzzled. Why should the world's most famous and glamorous train, the Orient Express, be heading west instead of east, from London to the principality of Wales?

No murder is planned on this new 1988 departure for the Orient Express, but passengers are bound to find plenty to intrigue them in this beautiful mountainous region, still relatively undiscovered by many overseas visitors.

At £1,710 for the week-long trip, tickets for "The Welsh Prince" are not cheap, but travellers can expect to be pampered with champagne and caviar, accommodation in the very best country house hotels and traditional Welsh entertainment including harpists and male-voice choirs.

With departures in July and August, morning coffee, lunch and tea will be served en route from London to North Wales in the superbly restored Pullman carriages dating from 1927. Ahead lies travel over some of Britain's most scenic rail routes, trundling along beside the sea, over wide estuaries, and within arrow-shot of mighty 13th-century castles such as Conwy and Harlech.

Among the attractions visited en route are, in North Wales Caernarfon Castle — where Prince Charles was invested as Prince of Wales — the picturesque 'fantasy village' of Portmeirion; and the delightful Ffestiniog railway.

This narrow-gauge line, which winds its way from Por-

thmadog high into the mountains of Snowdonia, is celebrating 125 years of steam in 1988. In the 1863 steam engines took over from horses hauling trains of slate from the quarries in the hills to coast. The lovingly-maintained engine "Prince" is the oldest steam locomotive in the world still operating on its original line, now carrying sightseers rather than slate.

Highlight of the Orient Express journey through Mid Wales is stately Powis Castle near Welshpool, continually inhabited for over 500 years. This sumptuous residence of Lord Powis has beautiful terraced gardens adorned with yew hedges and statuary while inside is a new attraction: the Clive Museum.

Opened by Countess Mountbatten of Burma in 1987, the museum has a glittering array of 300 Indian artefacts dating from the 17th century. Begun by Robert Clive of India and his son Edward — who married the heiress to Powis — the collection's piece de resistance is a jewelled tiger's head of gold, encrusted with emeralds and rubies. There are jewelled weapons, ivory chess sets, jades, silks — even the sedan chair of the Nawab of Bengal.

Moving into South Wales, the tour takes in the thickly-wooded Wye Valley and its famous abbey ruins at Tintern as well as Tredegar House near Newport. This has been called the finest country house in Wales — a mansion dating from the 16th century — which gives a perfect impression of day-to-day life both above and below stairs.

Restoration has been underway here since the mid-1970s, and now 40 rooms have been



Meal-time on the Orient Express Pullman carriage Cygnus.



Powis Castle which houses Robert Clive's collection of Indian antiquities.

completed — from the Gilt Room with its many paintings and decorative ceiling, to the modest butler's pantry and housekeeper's room in the servants' part of the house. Now restoration of the period gardens is proceeding apace, and this year sees the first tours, including the lovely sunken garden, orchard and orangery.

The country park surrounding Tredegar is setting for the Royal National Eisteddfod (July 30 - August 6), a magnificent annual cultural event of music, drama, choral singing and the other arts — all conducted in the poetic Welsh tongue.

No tour should miss out Cardiff, capital of Wales, a good centre for shopping and night-life — not to mention medieval banquets in the city's ornate castle. Also here is the National Museum, hosting an important exhibition from March 24 until March 1990: "Gerald of Wales." Gerald was an influential churchman in the 12th century, who made an historic pilgrimage around Wales 800 years ago. The exhibition will provide a fascinating look at military and church life in medieval times.

You don't have to travel by Orient Express to visit any of these places — in fact the local British Rail trains are comfortable and good value-for-money. From London, Cardiff can be reached by fast InterCity train in under two hours and Shrewsbury, jumping-off point for Mid and North Wales, is less than three hours away. The unspoilt Welsh countryside is also ideal for leisurely motoring holidays, with plenty of hotels, inns, farmhouses and self-catering cottages providing accommodation.



Tintern Abbey in the Wye Valley.

Aruba: Dutch outpost in the West Indies

The furthestmost island in the so-called ABC Islands in the Caribbean, Aruba is only about 20 miles long and 6 miles wide. More and more vacationers are being lured to this tiny isle with reasonably priced package plans.

ORANJESTAD, Aruba: If you're looking for a lush green tropical isle, don't come to Aruba. But if you're looking for white powdery beaches, almost constant sun, and warm turquoise-coloured water in which to swim and snorkel, then Aruba is the place for you.

This island looks like a chunk of New Mexico desert cut out by a cookie cutter and dropped into the Caribbean Sea — with the White Sands National Park sprinkled into endless sandy beaches.

What's more, the steady northeast trade winds blowing over the land remind you of those unforgiving New Mexico currents. Yet here, the wind is so prevalent that it distorts the local divi-divi trees, making them flat on top with limbs growing only on the side away from the force of the wind.

The leeward side of the island, however, is peaceful and serene. An increasing number of low-rise and high-rise hotels nestle into the sand. With little tide and no hurricanes (they form north of here), some hotels here have rooms with sliders that allow you to step out right onto the milk-white beach.

With more vacationers being drawn to Aruba, especially through reasonably priced package plans, hotels are expanding. The Holiday Inn, the island's largest, with 800 rooms, is in its third phase of expansion. Also enlarging are time-sharing complexes such as the Dutch Village and Playa Linda Beach Resort, both on the popular beach strip of Palm Beach.

In just a few hours ashore from a cruise ship, you can learn much about this leeward island of the Dutch West Indies. Aruba is the farthest west in the chain of the so-called ABC Islands, with Bonaire and Curacao stretching to the east. Venezuela is only 17 miles to the south.

Aruba, an island about 20 miles long and 6 miles wide, was discovered in 1499 by the Spaniard Alonso de Ajeda. He found it inhabited by peaceful Arawak Indians who were farmers and fishermen. Fortun-

ately, Spain maintained only a small Spanish garrison, so the Indian heritage remained intact until the Dutch arrived in 1634. Even then, the Dutch kept Aruba mostly as a "closed area" until the 19th century.

The people who live here are a mixture of Dutch, Indian and Spanish. Dutch is the official language, though English is widely spoken. Aruba enjoys an independent status in partnership with Holland and the Netherlands Antilles, consisting of five islands.

Since tourism is primary in Aruba, you can find numerous ways to pass the time. On your own, you can walk in the downtown area to see restored centuries-old buildings such as ancient William III Tower, once used to guide ships into the bay and now a museum; the old and new Dutch reformed churches; and Wilhelmina Park, next to the beach where a statue of the former Dutch Queen stands in the centre.

A six-block shopping centre can satisfy the most discriminating buyer. Or you can take a taxi to one of the hotels and enjoy its facilities and beaches. Aruba also has several casinos

that cater to tourists. Snorkelling or scuba diving may be your interest. If so, you can head for the beach area, where you can rent equipment for any kind of water activity. Tennis, horseback riding, and golf are also available.

Curiosity about this strange-looking flat island with two odd peaks on the horizon may encourage you to take an island tour. Maria Marcus was the guide for our group of 37 on a Pelican Tour. Mrs Marcus spilled out historical facts and details about the architecture and flora and fauna.

The Pelican Tour took us to see the forlorn northwestern windward side of the island to Andicouri. Here the surf has pounded relentlessly on volcanic rocks to form several natural rock bridges. The surrounding level land rising to hills look like a moonscape, since no vegetation grows nearby.

On the way, the bus travels near the remaining walls of a 19th-century Bushiribana gold mine, which extracted gold from crushed ore, once an important industry on Aruba. The buildings are scheduled to be restored.

We rode through a valley called Frenchmen's Pass, where the greatest amount of vegetation on the island is found. Hundreds of chattering parakeets nest in the tall, dense cactus growth. Small goats wander everywhere though a few are kept in place by living

fences of cactuses.

En route, the bus pauses so that tourists can see unique country houses dating back to the 18th century. The tiny, low, one-story houses are brightly painted stucco, with red tile roofs, and decorated white trim. Many of the houses near the main roads have been bought for relatively high prices and restored.

Other tour stops are at Casibari Rock, where the adventurous can climb an unusual high mound of rocks to get a view of the island's terrain. Not on the tour is the 541-foot-high Haystack Hill that looms over the island.

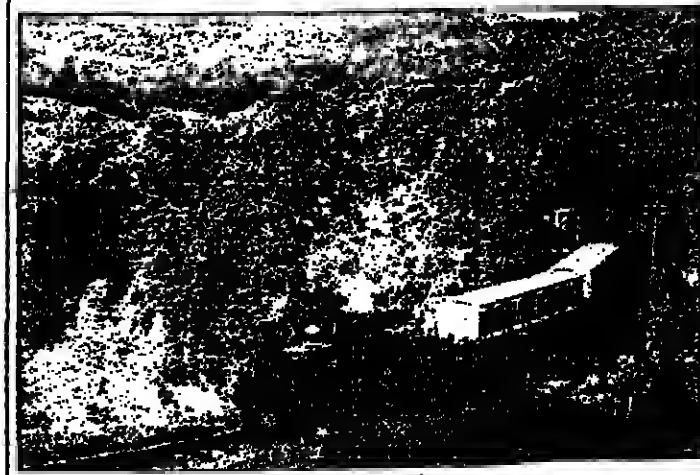
Aruba's most prolific plant seems to be a tall cactus, but in some areas there are thousands of low-growing aloe plants, descended from the ones imported to Aruba in the 1840s. A major export in the past, now again after a few years' hiatus, aloe is being harvested and processed for use in cosmetics and other products.

For years, Aruba's chief income producer was the oil industry, which began in 1929 and lasted until 1985, when Exxon closed its large refinery. It now stands in ghostly silence. Fortunately for the island's economy, the first cruise ship arrived in the port of Oranjestad in 1979, and since then tourism has been on the rise.

1988, The Christian Science Monitor News Service.



The milky-white beaches of Aruba draw vacationers from many places.



A steam train on the Ffestiniog railway.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Agriculture Department estimates higher US wheat harvest

WASHINGTON, May 11, (AP) — The Agriculture Department said yesterday that 1988 US wheat production is estimated at 1.62 billion bushels, up 4 per cent from last year's harvest of 1.56 billion bushels.

Officials said the average yield, based on indications as of May 1, was estimated at 40.7 bushels per acre, compared with last year's 39.8 bushels per harvested acre.

Farmers are expected to have about 39.8 million acres for harvest this year, up 1 per cent from 39.3 million in 1987, the department said.

Winter wheat is planted in the fall and harvested the following summer. It makes up about three-fourths of total US wheat production.

No 1988 production estimates for spring wheat, corn and other major spring-planted crops were included. Those will be issued by USDA later in the growing season.

A bushel is a measure of volume and translates into different weights for different crops. In the case of wheat, 36.7 bushels equals one metric ton.

A metric ton is about 2,205 pounds and is equal to 36.7 bushels of soybeans, or 39.4 bushels of corn or 36.7 bushels of wheat. An acre equals 0.4 hectares.

San Miguel announces new board

MANILA, Philippines, May 11, (AP) — Stockholders of San Miguel Corp., the nation's largest private company, beat back a bid by a supporter of Ferdinand Marcos to regain influence over the company.

The stockholders yesterday rejected all members of the board of directors, it was announced today.

The voting came at the end of a stormy session marked by a dispute between chairman Andres Soriano III and the presidential commission on good government, which controls 51 per cent of the shares.

The 15-member board includes all nine nominees of the commission and six of the 10 put forward by Soriano and his allies.

A faction which supports Eduardo Cojuangco, a supporter of the deposed president and a cousin of President Corason Aquino, nominated nine candidates but all were defeated.

Cojuangco was a close associate of Marcos and fled to the United States after the February 1986 uprising which propelled Mrs Aquino to the presidency.

The commission gained effective control of San Miguel by seizing San Miguel shares either owned directly by Cojuangco or which were held by the United Coconut Planters Bank, which Cojuangco once headed.

On Tuesday, the Philippine Supreme Court denied a motion filed by Cojuangco for a preliminary injunction against Soriano and the commission, claiming they deprived him illegally of his control of the giant company.

US import prices up

WASHINGTON, May 11, US import prices rose moderately during the first three months of 1988, but more slowly than during the fourth quarter of 1987, according to the US Department of Labour.

Import prices rose 1.2 per cent in the first quarter following a 1.6 per cent increase in the previous quarter, the department reported recently.

Excluding energy imports, prices climbed 2.3 per cent during the January-March period, less rapidly than the 3.0 per cent fourth-quarter increase, but at a slightly faster pace than the quarterly average of 2.0 per cent over the past two years.

China's farmers angered by fertiliser speculators

BEIJING, May 11, (Reuters) — Schools, theatre troupes and factories in China are making big profits speculating in scarce fertiliser that is desperately needed by hard-pressed farmers, the Economic Daily said today.

In the latest report on a worsening fertiliser crisis, the newspaper said official abuse of power and corruption were preventing fertiliser from reaching farmers who needed it for spring planting which began last month in North China.

The China Village Management News said that although supplies of fertiliser had risen this year from last, most farmers were unable to get what

Thatcher is a staunch advocate of free market policies

UK in a lather over foreign investment

LONDON, May 11, (AP) — Britain is in a lather over foreign stake-building in its largest company, British Petroleum Co. PLC, and in its two biggest confectioners, and is hinting at moves to block the moves.

While patriotism has fuelled the objections, two other issues have surfaced: an Opec member's acquisition of a stake in a non-Opec nation's major oil company, and the raid on British companies by "bid-proof" foreign concerns.

In the BP case, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government said the Kuwaiti government's acquisition of a 22-per cent stake in the oil giant warranted investigation because the nation belongs to Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Britain, the world's fifth largest oil producer, is not in Opec. The Conservative government was referring the matter to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to determine whether

this acquisition is in the public interest. Trade Secretary Lord Young announced last week.

Such stake-building could result in numerous conflicts between the interests of Kuwait and BP's other shareholders, said Steve Turner, an analyst at the London investment firm Smith New Court Ltd.

The Kuwaiti government's Kuwait Investment Office in London says its BP stake is a long-term investment, and "considers it has always acted as a model investor in BP and that its presence as a shareholder in BP is not in any way contrary to the British public interest."

It bought the stake piecemeal after the British government sold off its remaining 31.5 per cent share of BP last fall.

Meanwhile, the Office of Fair Trading, which advises the trade secretary on whether to call in the Monopolies Commission, is reviewing two Swiss companies' runs on Rowntree Plc.

Noting that Swiss law protects

Nestle S.A. and Jacobs Suchard S.A. from takeover, critics object to the lack of reciprocity.

"We can't safely continue to play football against teams which have built brick walls against their own goals and expect to win," said John Banham, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, Britain's largest industry group.

Response
Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said in response to a question in the House of Commons on Tuesday that reciprocity would be a key issue in the review.

Swiss food giant Nestle has launched a £2.1 billion (\$3.95 billion) takeover offer for Rowntree and has bought an 11 per cent stake in it. Jacobs Suchard has purchased a 29.9 per cent holding in Rowntree, the maximum allowed under British takeover regulations short of a full takeover bid.

Also controversial is General Cinema Corp.'s purchase of a

17.7 per cent stake in Cadbury Schweppes Plc. The government said yesterday it would not go to the Monopolies Commission, but warned that Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts-based General Cinema could face further scrutiny if it goes ahead with plans to increase its stake.

Critics complain that General Cinema also is "bid-proof" because some of its shareholders have limited voting rights and the US state of Delaware, where the company is incorporated, has passed anti-takeover legislation.

About 50 Conservative Members of Parliament have backed a House of Commons motion that the "predatory" bid for Rowntree go before the Monopolies Commission over the reciprocity issue.

Opposition lawmaker Malcolm Bruce wrote Young: "It is high time this government made a stand for British regional and national interests."

Young denied the government was becoming protectionist, tell-

ing the Observer newspaper: "If we start getting into protectionism, we will be the ones to suffer most."

Mrs Thatcher is a staunch advocate of free market policies and Britain is an enthusiastic foreign investor, but the country remains generally resistant to foreign investment.

Former Rowntree chairman Sir Donald Barron told applauding shareholders at their annual meeting late last month: "This company is a national asset. It is wrong that it should go to some inanimate place without tradition."

Meanwhile, Nestle chairman Helmut Mauber came to London this week to meet with members of parliament, insisting Rowntree would benefit if its products were marketed through Nestle's worldwide sales network.

Asked by independent television news about the reciprocity issue, he said: "It is a barrier to takeover, I must admit it."

Kuwait is long-term investor in Spain, says KIO chief

MADRID, May 11, (Reuters) — A Kuwaiti official rejected allegations that the country placed more than \$1 billion of investment in Spain with a view to speculative gain.

Fouad Jaffar, general manager of the Kuwait Investment Office (KIO), told a business conference on Monday that his organisation, which places Kuwaiti petrodollars in holdings around the globe, saw itself as a long-term investor.

KIO's substantial Spanish investment has aroused interest in business circles throughout Western Europe and attracted media comment in Spain itself.

Jaffar said: "I have read in the Spanish and international press that Kuwait Investment Office in Spain are 'sharks', by which I mean that we are speculators... the fact is that KIO's record is of long-term investment."

"KIO has invested over \$1 billion in Spain in the past four years. We have done so because we believe that participating in the longer-term restructuring of industry in Spain is an exceptional opportunity."

In each of the KIO's investments in Spain "we have not only purchased shares in a Spanish company but have subscribed to increase the capital of the company," Jaffar said.

Kuwaiti interest had also encouraged other institutional investors to see Spain as an important part of their portfolios.

He also said: "We believe that foreign institutional investment in Spain is somewhat preferable to acquisition by foreign multinationals since it leaves the centre of decision making here rather than in a corporate head office in Paris or Detroit."

US deficit commission promises to finish its work ahead of schedule

WASHINGTON, May 11, (AP) — The panel of experts created to solve the government's budget woes convened its first public meeting yesterday with a pledge to finish its work ahead of schedule.

Former transportation secretary Drew Lewis, now head of Union Pacific Corp., and Washington lawyer Robert Strauss, co-chairmen of the 12-member commission, said the panel was committed to solving the budget problem in a bipartisan way after considering all possible solutions.

Lewis said that the panel, in an earlier closed-door session, had agreed to an accelerated schedule under which its recommendations would be completed and released on Dec 21, more than two months ahead of the deadline called for by law.

Both Strauss and Lewis

previously had indicated that the March 1, 1989, deadline set by Congress for the commission's final report would be too late to influence the new president's critical first budget request to Congress, which he traditionally makes soon after taking office in January.

"If there is one threat that unites this commission, I believe it is our concern that America cannot continue to outspend its income if we want to continue this nation's dominant position in the world," Lewis said in opening remarks.

Among the witnesses who testified yesterday was Stanley Collender, director of federal budget policy for the accounting firm Touche Ross and Co.

Collender urged the commission to scrap the current deficit targets set in the Gramm-Rudman "deficit reduction" law.

Collender said the average \$36-billion per year reduction in the budget deficit, which last year totalled \$151.4 billion, were "phony, more of a publicity stunt than a serious deficit maximum."

Realistic
He said that reaching a balanced budget by 1993, as called for under the current law, was very doubtful. He said yearly deficit reductions of \$15 billion to \$20 billion would be more realistic.

The commission's 12 members were appointed by President Ronald Reagan and House and Senate leaders. Another two members will be added by the president-elect after the Nov 8 election.

Then if things go according to plan, the deal-making will start in earnest, with the decisions forming the basis for the new president's first budget to Congress.

Audi announces job cutbacks

MUNICH, West Germany, May 11, (AP) — Audi AG, one of West Germany's leading car makers, said today it would cut 2,000 jobs out of its workforce this year, despite record sales in 1987.

The surprise announcement was the latest sign of the sluggish sales that have hurt West Germany's automobile industry over the past two years.

Car exports, particularly for high-priced luxury models, have slumped over the past two years because the strong West German mark makes German cars expensive in overseas markets.

Audi spokesman Ferdinand Piech told reporters that most of the job cuts would be made through attrition, "at least at first."

He said they were part of a wide-ranging cost-saving programme.

Speaking at the company's

annual news conference in Munich, Piech said the decision on whether or not to resort to layoffs would depend largely on the overall economy.

"The job cuts would come at the company's main assembly plants at Ingolstadt and Neckarsulm, in southern West Germany, he added."

Audi AG's total payroll at the end of March was 38,875 employees.

Piech said Audi will attempt to contract out the production of components more in the coming years as a way of slashing production and development costs.

Piech said 1987 earnings were "unsatisfactory," even though they marked an increase over 1986 income. The company earned 120 million marks (\$74 million) in 1987, compared with 102 million marks (\$62.5 million) the previous year, he added.

Among the factors depressing earnings were heavy losses in the United States, Piech said.

The company has been forced to offer incentives to customers in a bid to boost sales following reports of accidents that resulted from a defect in the transmission of the Audi 5000 series, according to Piech.

Nonetheless, Audi's first-quarter sales climbed 10.5 per cent, to 2.86 billion marks, over the first quarter of last year, Piech said. He said the increase, coupled with the personnel cutbacks, will boost profit for the year.

Earlier this year Porsche AG, maker of the famed German sports cars, was forced to announce job cutbacks earlier this year after posting a 50-per cent decrease in sales in the United States in 1987.

Iran blames Saudis for Opec deadlock

NICOSIA, May 11, (Reuters) — Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh accused Saudi Arabia on Monday of introducing political quarrels into last week's meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec).

Tehran Radio, monitored in Nicosia, said he told reporters in Tehran that this led to deadlock on a proposal to cut Opec production in order to prop up prices.

Optimistic
But Aqazadeh said he believed pressure from other Opec members would persuade Saudi Arabia, which cut relations with Tehran on April 26, to agree to an output cut by next month.

In Vienna last week, Saudi Arabia and three other Gulf Arab states opposed an Algerian proposal to reduce Opec output by 300,000 barrels per day (bpd)

in response to offers of production cuts by six non-Opec producers.

Aqazadeh said the non-Opec offer was "very significant because by reaching an understanding with non-Opec oil producers we can rectify the problem of supply and demand and control a larger share of oil exports to the Western world."

He said he was optimistic that the Saudis would revise their position before the next Opec meeting, set for June 8 in Vienna, and a "comprehensive understanding" would be reached with non-Opec producers.

Overproduction has kept oil prices about \$2 below the Opec target of \$18 per barrel. Industry analysts put Opec's output in April at 18 million bpd, despite an agreed ceiling of 15.06 million bpd.

Aqazadeh said he was sure other oil producing countries would object that Riyadh had prevented an agreement with non-Opec producers.

"They (Saudis) will bend to the pressure of other countries and the need for oil revenue, and we will have an agreement," he said. "We do not like Opec's fragmentation in any way."

Aqazadeh said Iran could produce more than its quota of 2.369 million bpd, but he rejected suggestions by Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer that it was doing so.

"We did not and do not violate (the quota)," he said. Nazer said on Saturday that Iran did not allow Opec auditors to visit its oil installations to verify its output.

Industry analysts have estimated Iran's April production at 2.1 million bpd.

World Business Summary

Banks must do more in debt crisis: IMF chief

WASHINGTON, May 11, (Reuters) — The head of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said today that commercial banks were making it harder to solve the Third World debt crisis by stalling on new loans to indebted nations. Managing director Michel Camdessus said the banks' reluctant attitude sent the wrong signal to debtors which were making politically difficult economic reforms. "The debt strategy is obviously impeded when financing falls short," Camdessus said. "But it is also impeded when financing packages take a long time to assemble and when enormous efforts and goodwill have to be expended in bringing a few reluctant entities into the collective effort." His remarks were contained in a speech he was making at London's City University. A copy was made available in Washington beforehand. Camdessus said that new bank lending was negligible, adding that in the last two years more funds came into banks from old loans than went out in new credits. "This inevitably sends the wrong signal to countries contemplating bolder efforts, and it calls into question the notion that our strategy is a cooperative one oriented to growth," he said. Camdessus praised efforts by indebted countries to move towards reform. They were in contrast to the attitude by banks. "Things are moving ahead there — less than we would wish, but more than is generally acknowledged," he said.

"And one can only be concerned that this shift risks being interrupted, and even reversed, because of doubts concerning the availability of financial support," Camdessus defended the role of the fund. But while it had shown it was willing to do more to help indebted countries, its resources were limited.

Saudis give Jordan \$60m in aid

AMMAN, May 11, (Reuters) — Saudi Arabia has given Jordan almost \$60 million in its second aid payment this year, Finance Minister Hanna Odeh said yesterday. He told the official Petra News Agency Riyadh had paid \$59.9 million into a treasury account at the Central Bank. The sum is exactly half the usual three-yearly payment. Odeh did not explain the apparent shortfall or say when the money arrived. Saudi Arabia has given Amman nearly \$360 million a year under an agreement reached at the 1978 Arab summit in Baghdad to give aid in Arab states confronting Israel. Only Riyadh has honoured its pledges to Jordan and the aid is an important element in financing a chronic budget deficit. Bankers have suggested that a delay in receiving the Saudi aid may have contributed to a Central Bank decision to stop selling foreign currencies to local banks on April 25. The bankers said the move lasted until a brief run on the dinar on May 2 prompted the Central Bank to intervene to stabilise a hectic market in which moneychangers were selling dollars at 385 fils at one point, 35 fils above the normal rate.

A Central Bank official told Reuters the Central Bank had stopped selling foreign exchange in banks because it had judged there was sufficient in the market to meet their needs. He declined to comment on a local newspaper report that hard currency reserves were at their lowest level ever.

The latest published Central Bank figures say foreign reserves totalled 63 million dinars (\$183 million) in February, down from 72.5 million dinars (\$210 million) in January. The bank also holds one million ounces of gold.

Economist Fawad Al-Faek said that before the Saudi payment arrived foreign reserves amounted to only a week's import cover, excluding gold whose market value he put at \$500 million.



CENTRAL BANK OF KUWAIT

ANNOUNCEMENT

**For Subscription in Issue No. (12) for Treasury Bills
Authorised by Decree Law No. (50) of 1987**

CENTRAL BANK OF KUWAIT, on behalf of the Ministry of Finance of the State of Kuwait, hereby announces the offering of TREASURY BEARER BILLS in Kuwaiti Dinar for SUBSCRIPTION in compliance with the following Rules and Regulations:

1. AMOUNT OF ISSUE:

The Amount of this Issue is KD 100 million distributed over THREE Denominations as follows:
KD 50 000, KD 250 000, KD 500 000

2. ISSUE DATE : 21 / 5 / 1988

3. DUE DATE : 17 / 8 / 1988

4. OFFERING PERIOD:

From: Thursday 12 / 5 / 1988

To : Sunday 15 / 5 / 1988

5. ALLOTMENT: 21 / 5 / 1988

6. DELIVERY OF BILLS:

After one week following the date of submitting the application.

7. The Provisions of this Issue shall be subject to the Rules and Conditions stipulated in the Announcement for Subscription in Issue No. (1) for Treasury Bills, published in the Local Newspapers of Saturday, November 21, 1987 and in the Official Gazette (Kuwait Al-Youn) No.1746 issued Sunday, November 22, 1987.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

ARAB TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, MAY 12-13, 1989

LONDON
(Alpha Stocks)Prices at the time of
going to Press

NAME	LAST
ABSEY LFE	270/0
ADT LTD	115/0
ALD LYONS	400/0
AMSTRAD	173/0
AROTV GP	188/0
ASDA GP	156/0
BAA	270/0
BIR	243/0
BAT INDS	400/0
BARCLAYS	384/0
BASS	829/0
BEAZER	173/0
BEECHAMS	453/0
BERISFORD	297/0
BICC PLC	310/0
BLUE ARW	13/38
BLUE CIRC	418/0
BUC GP	376/0
BOOTS CO	212/0
BR IND	64/73
BR COMM	256/0
BR AIRWAY	158/0
BR AEROSP	389/0
BR GAS RG	72/00
B.P.	263/0
B.P. SEC	69/0
BR TELCOM	263/0
BRITOL	508/0
BUNZL	133/0
BURMAN OL	555/0
BURTON	227/0
CABLEVISION	319/0
CADBURYS	327/0
COATS VTY	233/0
COMN INT	345/0
COMS GOLD	970/0
COOKSONS	525/0
COURTAULD	363/0
DALGETY	290/0
DEE CP	174/0
DIXONS	175/0
ENG CHINA	428/0
ENTER OIL	303/0
FI BACCK	114/0
FERRANTI	78/0
GEN ACCID	910/0
GEN ELEC	164/0
GLAXO	927/0
GRANADA	325/0
GLOBE	134/0
GLYNED	460/0
GRAND MET	484/0
GUARD RYL	870/0
GUINNESS	299/0
HAMPSHIRE	575/0
HANSON	128/0
HILLSDOWN	500/0
HILLSDOWN	269/0
ICI	965/0

LONDON
(Beta Stocks)

Prices at the time of going to Press

NAME	CLOSE	OPEN
2ND ALICE	707/0	707/0
600 GROUP	106/0	106/0
A.B. ELECT	405/0	408/0
AAN HLD	285/0	286/0
AARONSON	122/0	121/0
ACRE OIL	185/0	187/0
ADDITION	94/0	94/0
ADVEST	327/0	326/0
ALEX UNIK	166/0	165/0
ALEXON	380/0	378/0
ALLO COLL	131/0	130/0
ALLO PLMT	51/0	51/0
ALLIANCE	779/0	778/0
AMAR	172/0	172/0
AMEC	383/0	383/0
AMER TRST	118/0	118/0
AMERSHAM	457/0	458/0
ANI HLTC	260/0	261/0
ANGLO O'S	199/0	199/0
APPEYARD	424/0	423/0
APRICOT	103/0	103/0
APV PLC	119/0	119/0
AQUAS.A	93/0	93/0
ARMENY	76/0	77/0
ARCHER AJ	159/0	159/0
ARLINGTON	202/0	203/0
ARMSTRONG	130/0	130/0
ASLEY LA	118/0	117/0
ATWOODS	289/0	290/0
AUS REE A	373/0	370/0
AVON RUBB	715/0	715/0
B.WEILL	163/0	163/0
BAILL JAP	513/0	511/0
BANKER IT	66/0	66/0
BARKER DO	151/0	150/0
BARRIST	179/0	180/0
BAYES C	29/0	29/0
BEJAM GP	178/0	179/0
BELHAVEN	44/0	45/0
BELWAY	259/0	258/0
BEHLOX HD	64/0	64/0
BENTALLS	185/0	186/0
BERKELEY	353/0	353/0
BIR GROUP	112/0	112/0
BIRNIE CL	397/0	396/0
BK OF SCO	517/0	517/0
BLACKWOOD	51/0	51/0
BLK LE 2	17/6	17/4
BHNETT F	33/0	34/0
BOASE NAS	250/0	253/0
BODINGTON	140/0	140/0
BODY SHOP	536/0	535/0
BOOKER	395/0	395/0
BORTHWICK	56/0	56/0
BOUATER	390/0	391/0
BOUTNORPE	153/0	152/0
BR STARS	65/0	65/0
BR OREGDI	131/0	131/0
BR LAND	318/0	318/0

World Indices

INDEX	LATEST	1/PREV-DAYS/2	PREV-OR	PREV-YR
FT 300	1043.9	1435.8	1438.0	1386.7
FT 500	1016.9	1019.4	984.4	957.4
FT ALL SEC	925.83	925.83	927.48	896.73
FT GOV SEC	89.83	89.83	89.89	91.03
FT 100	198.2	198.2	198.5	237.3
FT 100 IND	180.3	180.3	180.3	232.96
FT 100 DLR	128.43	128.43	129.26	128.44
FT 100 STG	101.48	101.31	96.95	101.83
FT 100 LDR	112.25	112.25	113.09	112.29

London Stock Market Report

U.K. STOCKS REMAIN SHARPLY LOWER IN LATE TRADING. LONDON, MAY 11, REUTER - EQUITY PRICES REMAINED SHARPLY LOWER IN LATE TRADING BUT HAD MOVED SLIGHTLY ABOVE THEIR WORST LEVELS OF THE DAY, WHICH CAME AFTER THE NEW YORK MARKET POSTED AN EARLY, ANTICIPATED SUBSTANTIAL FALL.

DEALERS SAID WORLD STOCK MARKETS HAVE BEEN UNSETTLED BY CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER NIGEL LAUSON'S REMARKS IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. LAUSON SAID HE SAW THE POSSIBILITY OF A COORDINATED RISE IN INTEREST RATES IF THE U.S. RAISED SHORT-TERM RATES TO CURB INFLATIONARY PRESSURES.

AT 1430 GMT, THE FTSE STOOD 36.9 OR JUST OVER TWO PCT LOWER AT 1,755.7.

DEALERS SAID THE MARKET RECEIVED SOME SUPPORT AT 1,730 ON THE FTSE 100 INDEX AS WALL STREET SEEMED UNWILLING TO DROP DECISIVELY BELOW 1,980 ON THE DOW 30 INDUSTRIALS INDEX.

LATER, HOWEVER, THE NEW YORK MARKET DROPPED TO SHOW A LOSS OF OVER 40 POINTS AT JUST ABOVE 1,960 AND THIS LED TO ANOTHER WAVE OF MARK-DOWNS HERE. ONE TRADER SAID "THE MARKET IS LOOKING SICK, BUT WE HAVEN'T SEEN A LOT OF REAL SELLING. ON THE OTHER HAND, BUYERS ARE ALMOST NON-EXISTENT."

TRADERS SAID EVERY TIME THE MARKET TRIED TO RALLY, A RIPPLE OF SELLING WAS TAKING IT LOWER ONCE MORE. THEY ADDED THAT MUCH OF WALL STREET'S FALL HAD ALREADY BEEN DISCOUNTED.

London Gold

LONDON, MAY 11, REUTER - GOLD BULLION TRADING WAS QUIET THIS AFTERNOON, WITH THE MARKET SETTLING BACK FRACTIONALLY FROM ITS MORNING LEVELS, AND THE METAL WAS FIXED QUICKLY.

SPOT GOLD WAS SET AT 449.10 DLR AN OUNCE, SLIGHTLY BELOW THE OPENING 450.00/450.50, BUT STILL ABOVE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON'S CLOSE OF 446.50/447.00 DLR.

DEALERS SAID NEW YORK MOVEMENTS WERE INCONCLUSIVE THIS AFTERNOON, AND FAILED TO PROVIDE THE IMPETUS FOR THE MARKET TO SIGNIFICANTLY BREAK ABOVE 450 DLR -- AN AREA OF HEAVY RESISTANCE. LOWER LEVELS IN PLATINUM ALSO WEIGHED ON GOLD.

London Money Market

LONDON, MAY 11, REUTER - MONEY MARKET INTEREST RATES ENDED MOSTLY FIRMER BUT OFF THEIR HIGHS AS FEARS OF A NEAR TERM RISE IN U.K. RATES SUBSIDED AFTER DEALERS TOOK A CALMER APPRAISAL OF REMARKS MADE BY BRITISH CHANCELLOR NIGEL LAUSON.

LAUSON, IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, SAID THERE COULD BE A ROUND OF INTERNATIONALLY COORDINATED INTEREST RATE RISES IF THE U.S. PUSHED UP ITS SHORT TERM RATES.

THE MARKET INITIALLY TOOK THIS TO MEAN THAT U.K. RATES COULD RISE SOON EVEN THOUGH LAUSON STATED THAT THERE WAS NO SIGN OF A RESURGENCE IN INFLATION AND SUCH A RISE NEED NOT BE NECESSARY, DEALERS SAID.

Foreign Exchange

DLR	STG	DMK	FFR	OPR
1.8850/60	1.6760/70	5.6890/90	10.745/90	NOON
1.6733/813	3.155/169	29.395/555		NOON
5.6875/950	10.7260/480	339.09/73		1300
1.3935/45	2.6267/300	83.05/15	24.47/50	FIX
1.8805	3.5455	112.125	33.045	FIX
				CLSE
				CLSE
				NOON
YEN 124.20/30	234.11/43			
SDR RATES	11/05/88	OTHERS	11/05/88	

NAME	LAST	OPEN
BR VITA	211/0	212/0
BRUNNER	245/0	245/0
BREIT WGR	138/0	139/0
BRITON	383/0	383/0
BRITON	158/0	158/0
BRITON	080/0	080/0
BRITON	304/0	303/0
BRUNNER	104/0	104/0
BSG INTL	66/4	66/0
BULMER HP	173/0	173/0
CALOR GRP	368/0	368/0
CAMB ELEC	230/0	230/0
CANB INST	43/0	44/0
CANFORD	161/0	163/0
CANWING W	185/0	185/0
CANWING W	285/0	286/0
CAP GRP	297/0	297/0
CAP RADIO	228/0	222/0
CARLSON	168/0	167/0
CARLSON	123/0	124/0
CARLSON	760/0	765/0
CASE GRP	87/0	89/0
CATER ALL	375/0	375/0
CELTIC TV	500/0	490/0
CHARTER	18/0	18/0
CHAS CHUR	125/0	125/0
CHAS CHUR	342/0	341/0
CHORIST	51/0	51/0
CHORIST	567/0	568/0
CI GROUP	43/0	44/0
CLYDE PET	141/4	142/0
CLYDE PET	65/4	66/0
CLYDE PET	51/0	52/0
COALITE	313/0	314/0
COATES BR	366/0	368/0
COLLINS A	427/0	427/0
COLLINS A	568/0	568/0
COLLINS A	180/0	176/0
COSTAIN	309/0	308/0
COURTS FR	255/0	253/0
COMIE CT	115/0	115/0
CREST NIC	211/0	211/0
CRH	116/0	116/0
CRH	195/0	195/0
CRH	342/0	341/0
CRH	158/0	157/0
CRYSTALAT	155/0	156/0
DAMES EST	33/4	33/0
DARSON IN	211/0	211/0
DE LA RUE	372/0	372/0
DELTA GRP	309/0	310/0
DIPLOMA	224/0	224/0
DRAYTON C	425/0	425/0
DRAYTON J	990/0	985/0
DRG	398/0	398/0
DUNHILL	195/0	197/0
EAGLE RFD	17/4	17/4
EAGLE YST	18/0	18/0
EDIN I.T.	148/0	149/0
ELECTRA	196/0	197/0
ELECTRO	209/0	210/0
ELLIS EVA	187/0	188/0
ELLIS GVA	66/0	66/0
EMAP	194/0	194/0
EMAP	219/0	218/0
EMAP	93/0	94/0
ETAN	265/0	266/0
EURO RSC	355/0	355/0
EURO RSC	324/0	326/0
EURO RSC	114/0	114/0
EURO RSC	173/0	174/0
F&C EURO	190/0	190/0
F&C PACIF	124/0	123/0
F&C PACIF	63/0	63/0
F&C PACIF	60/0	61/0
F&C PACIF	153/0	154/0
F&C PACIF	165/0	165/0
F&C PACIF	173/0	173/0
F&C PACIF	170/0	170/0
F&C PACIF	271/0	271/0
F&C PACIF	71/0	71/0
F&C PACIF	274/0	275/0
F&C PACIF	108/0	108/0
F&C PACIF	251/0	251/0
F&C PACIF	129/0	129/0
F&C PACIF	215/0	215/0
F&C PACIF	169/0	169/0
F&C PACIF	146/0	147/0
F&C PACIF	162/0	163/0
F&C PACIF	140/0	140/0
F&C PACIF	250/0	249/0
F&C PACIF	225/0	224/0
F&C PACIF	114/0	114/0
F&C PACIF	150/0	151/0
F&C PACIF	248/0	249/0
F&C PACIF	103/4	103/4
F&C PACIF	146/0	146/0
F&C PACIF	235/0	235/0
F&C PACIF	116/0	116/0
F&C PACIF	181/0	181/0
F&C PACIF	127/4	128/0
F&C PACIF	78/0	79/0
F&C PACIF	251/0	251/0
F&C PACIF	452/0	453/0
F&C PACIF	215/0	216/0
F&C PACIF	385/0	385/0
F&C PACIF	45/0	46/0
F&C PACIF	306/0	307/0
F&C PACIF	60/0	62/0
F&C PACIF	270/0	270/0
F&C PACIF	225/0	225/0
F&C PACIF	114/0	115/0
F&C PACIF	142/0	142/0
F&C PACIF	146/0	146/0
F&C PACIF	207/0	207/0
F&C PACIF	608/0	605/0
F&C PACIF	618/0	620/0
F&C PACIF	393/0	395/0
F&C PACIF	34/0	34/0
F&C PACIF	133/0	134/0

Morgan Stanley Capital International Indices

INDEX	LATEST	1/PREV-DAYS/2	PREV-OR	PREV-YR
AUSTRALIA	274.9	276.2	279.7	278.4
AUSTRIA	205.8	205.5	205.7	203.8
BELGIUM	372.7	374.0	375.4	365.7
CANADA	360.5	359.5	362.3	363.4
DENMARK	364.1	363.6	365.9	370.3
FRANCE	320.9	322.7	320.0	290.7
GERMANY	158.5	160.7	162.8	166.3
HONG KONG	1851.5	1865.0	1854.3	1823.7
FINLAND	110.3	109.9	109.7	108.1
ITALY	390.0	392.6	396.8	404.7
JAPAN	1285.0	1281.6	1299.7	1269.3
NETHERLANDS	243.5	243.5	243.5	238.4
NEW ZEAL	93.6	95.3	95.9	98.9
NORWAY	453.9	466.1	455.2	475.2
SPAIN	552.0	558.0	560.7	521.9
SWEDEN	243.2	244.3	244.3	247.8
SWITZ	875.2	873.7	872.2	856.8
U.K.	538.1	539.4	540.8	526.3
U.S.A.	235.5	235.5	236.3	229.4
WORLD	453.8	452.6	455.5	451.2
E.A.F.E.	876.2	874.6	881.2	868.9

Traveller Cheques/Visa Card

Whatever your destination, make sure Commercial Bank is your first stop for all your travelling financial arrangements.

Commercial Bank

NEW YORK

OPEN MID-DAY

AT&T CORP	23/0	23/0
AETNA LIFE	40/1	40/1
ALBERTSONS	29/3	29/3
ALCAN ALUM	27/5	27/5
ALCO STAND	23/6	23/6
AK CYANAMID	48/6	48/6
AM ELET PM	26/6	26/6
AM HOM PRO	73/3	73/3
AM HOM PRO	79/5	79/5
AM STANDARD	77/1	77/1
AM STORES	59/4	59/4
AM TEL-TEL	26/5	26/5
AMOCO CORP	75/1	75/1
AMP INC	47/0	47/0
AMPCO PITT	0	0
AMR CORP	43/2	43/2
AMR GEN CO	28/4	28/4
AMERADA HSE	29/6	29/6
ANDRUDA ELE	12/0	12/0
APACHE CP	0	0
APACHE PET	3/0	3/0
ARMSTRONG	36/7	36/7
ASHLAND OIL	69/2	69/2
ASIA PACIFIC	6/4	6/4
ATLAS CORP	0	0
AVERT INC	22/3	22/3
AVNET INC	25/6	25/6
AVON PRODS	26/2	26/2
BCE INC	30/5	30/5
BELL COS	0	0
BELL-HOW A	0	0
BETH STEEL	18/5	18/5
BEVERLY	6/2	6/2
BANK BOSTON	23/4	23/4
BANK N-YK-A	0	0
BANK BOSTON	30/3	30/3
BANK TR-HY	30/3	30/3
BANKAMERICA	9/5	9/5
BKANAN SPEC	6/7	6/7
BOEING CO	48/3	48/3
BOISE CASCO	4/0	4/0
BORDEN	50/6	50/6
BOMETER	30/1	30/1
BR TELECOM	45/2	45/2
BRIGGS-STYR	28/7	28/7
BRIST-HYSTER	39/2	39/2
BRUNSWICK	13/5	13/5
BURNDY CP	21/3	21/3
C 3 INC	13/4	13/4
CACOR CORP	36/2	36/2
CAGSARS NO	26/2	26/2
CAL FREIGHT	22/4	22/4
CAL GEN SS	14/7	14/7
CARD-DOCKE	23/6	23/6
CATERPIL TR	59/4	59/4
CSI INC	25/2	25/2
CBS	16/2	16/2
CENTEL CP	46/5	46/5
CHAMP INTL	33/6	33/6
CHAMP SPA	12/0	12/0
CHARTER CO	4/3	4/3
CHASE MAN	23/7	23/7
CHENED CP	33/5	33/5
CHEMICAL BHK	25/0	25/0
CHEVRON	47/7	47/7
CHRYSLER	23/1	23/1
CHUBB CORP	51/4	51/4
CHUR FR CH	6/2	6/2
CIGNA CORP	43/5	43/5
CIN MILACR	22/5	22/5
CIR CITY ST	27/2	27/2
CITICORP K	13/7	13/7
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Gold gains

Interest rate fears send shares tumbling

LONDON, May 11. (Reuters): Share values plunged in Tokyo and in London today on investor fears that interest rates may be set to rise around the world.

Dealers said the mark-down was triggered by comments by British Chancellor of the Exchequer, Nigel Lawson, who said there could be a coordinated interest rate hike by major nations.

A coordinated rise by West Germany, Japan and other leading nations, if US rates are raised to dampen American inflation, "is certainly possible," Lawson told the Wall Street Journal's European edition newspaper in an interview.

Costlier money is bad for business, and Lawson's remarks sent the Tokyo stock market's 225-share Nikkei index skidding 251.20 points, or nearly one per cent, to end a busy day at 27,161.05.

Losers led winners two to one in Tokyo, the world's highest stock market.

Shares also closed sharply down in Hong Kong where the Hang Seng index lost 28.66 points to 2,534.36 points.

London took the cue and by 0932 GMT its FTSE index of 100 British blue chip stocks was down 28.8 points or 1.6 per cent to a morning low of 1,763.8.

Bond prices fell, too. Gold gained.

Uneasy

The gold price was fixed for the morning in London's bullion market at \$449.35 an ounce, up \$2.70 from Tuesday.

Fears of inflation, and of higher interest rates to brake consumer spending, have in recent weeks begun to weigh on money markets which earlier were more concerned about the

dangers of a recession after the "Black Monday" October 19 stocks crash.

Meeting in Basle, Switzerland, leading central bankers at a monthly meeting of the Bank for International Settlements were said by monetary sources on Monday to be uneasy about inflation.

Many central banks opened the money sluices after the October crash, priming their economies with extra cash to minimise the danger of recession.

Now they are concerned that all this money could stoke inflation.

"People now see inflation as a possible feature on the scene in contrast to the possibility of recession, which was seen as a danger six months ago," one central banker said in Basle.

The Wall Street Journal quoted Britain's Lawson as saying that Japan and West Ger-

many had held back on increasing their interest rates before the United States does, for fear of weakening the dollar.

The dollar showed little reaction to his comments, trading in Europe just under 1.6775 marks and around 124.25 yen, slightly weaker than on Tuesday.

Dealers

If interest rates worldwide are set to rise, dealers said there was little point in moving money either into or out of US dollars.

But there were good reasons to move to bank deposits or other short-term instruments from stocks and bonds, which tend to slump when interest rates rise, they said.

US government bond prices traded in Europe, fell more than 25 cents for each 100 dollar face-value bond, while British government bond prices fell 50 pence for every 100 pounds sterling bond.

The sharp drops boosted yields, basically allowing investors to lock in a fixed interest rate for less money down.

In Tokyo, the effective yields on the benchmark 1997 government bond jumped to 4.765 per cent from 4.625 per cent.

The pound sterling remained in demand and traded around 3.16 marks and \$1.8550.

Other dollar rates at mid-morning compared with late Tuesday:

— 1.6765 West German marks, down from 1.6783

— 1.3925 Swiss francs, down from 1.3955

— 5.6915 French francs, up from 5.6905

— 1.8789 Dutch guilders, down from 1.8815

— 1.24800 Italian lire, unchanged

— 1.2370 Canadian dollars, down from 1.2375.

Rand's slide fuels S.Africa fears of slower growth

JOHANNESBURG, May 11. (Reuters): A slide in the value of South Africa's currency, the rand, to record lows this week has fuelled fears that the strain is beginning to tell on the country's fragile economy.

As relatively weak gold prices continued to depress export earnings, the rand hit a record low of 4.17 to the British pound sterling and dropped steeply against the Deutschmark and Japan's yen.

And although the dollar also weakened, the rand sank even faster against the US currency, hitting its lowest level in more than one year of 2.23 rand to the dollar.

Weak

Economists worry that a weak currency will raise South Africa's 13.4 per cent inflation rate and slam the brakes on its import-dependent economy by making foreign goods and services more expensive.

"Many traditional signs of a genuine economic upswing are not showing up," said Ockie

Stuart, director of the Bureau for Economic Research at Stellenbosch University.

"This is a worrisome trend since it is a situation that is symptomatic of a fortress economy," he said. "It seems realistic to expect that once again the balance of payments will damp down economic growth contributing to a lowering of living standards and further increases in unemployment."

Problems

Willie Potgieter, chief foreign exchange dealer at Standard Bank Ltd, said: "We believe the rand is likely to weaken further because of South Africa's inflation problems and balance of payment difficulties."

One key problem is the relatively weak price of gold, which accounts for nearly half of South Africa's export earnings. Gold has traded just around or below \$450 an ounce since February.

But some analysts argue that the currency should be allowed

to fall to ease the burden of repaying South Africa's foreign debt.

A weak currency should help South Africa maintain its current account balance of payments surplus, the surplus from which it funds its debt repayments.

Debt

It has repaid about \$5 billion of its original \$24 billion foreign debt since mid-1985 when international banks, alarmed by anti-apartheid protests and an insurrection in black townships, refused to roll over loans to South Africa.

"It is appropriate for the economy to slow down and for the rand to fall in order to shield the balance of payments," Rudolf Gouwus, chief economist at Rand Merchant Bank Ltd, told Reuters.

A weak currency gives a country's exports a pricing advantage overseas and, by boosting prices of foreign-made goods, discourages purchases of imports.

GCC ministers to discuss unification of custom tariffs

DOHA, May 11. (Opecna): Finance ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) are to discuss the unification of custom tariffs in the region when they meet in Riyadh later this month.

According to GCC assistant secretary-general Dr Abdulla Al Quwaiz, custom fees between the six member states have already been abolished.

He pointed out that the unification of tariffs was the last logical step left to be taken in order to fully implement the scheme.

Al Quwaiz said the ministers would also discuss the protection of national products, coordination of exchange rates and permission to GCC citizens to buy shares in other member states.

Summit

He said these recommendations would be submitted for endorsement to the GCC annual summit in Bahrain at the end of the year.

GCC consists of Opec member countries Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE, together with non-Opec Bahrain and Oman.

Airlines to use Ecu to settle accounts

GENEVA, May 11. (UPI): Airlines are going to use the European currency unit (Ecu) in settling accounts because of too many fluctuations in the US dollars and British pound, the International Air Transport Association (Iata) said today.

The Ecu is a "basket" of 10 European currencies designed to provide exchange rate stability.

Iata said its clearing house will begin using the Ecu later this year in settlement of inter-airline accounts — as when one carrier collects a fare but the passenger flies with another airline.

"For 40 years the US dollar and pound sterling were the two standard settlement currencies," Iata said.

"But the volatility of the dollar and sterling combined with the size of the clearance operation — \$14.4 billion in 1987 — caused Iata to look into alternative currencies."

Doubts

Iata director general Guenther Esser said there was some doubt at first whether airlines would adopt "such an unusual solution" as the Ecu without lengthy discussions.

"In fact, acceptance was very easy because a 'soup' of foreign exchange is the international airlines' daily financial diet," Esser said. "They understood the problem and recognised the solution immediately."

Iata said the decision was taken in April at a meeting of its financial committee.

Gulf Air tries to increase weekly flights

COLOMBO, May 11. (Kuna): Gulf Air is trying to increase its weekly flights out of Colombo from three to four to cater to the big demand for more seats. The airline will hold talks with Lanka's national carrier, Air Lanka today.

Gulf Air's manager, Ephrem Gabriel, said the airline was not seeking to have any onward flights from Colombo but asking for a second direct flight from Abu Dhabi to Colombo to cater to the demand by the local workforce between Gulf states and Sri Lanka.

Gabriel pointed out Gulf Air's request was justifiable since Air Lanka operates two weekly flights to Abu Dhabi.

Kuwait Airways, Saudia, Gulf Air and Emirates are the main Middle East based airlines operating through Colombo.

No cause for alarm about world economy: Wilson

Major initiatives unlikely at G-7 summit

OTTAWA, May 11. (IAP): To Finance Minister, Michael Wilson, the Oct 19 stock market crash in the United States was a "tap on the shoulder" but he says there is no cause for alarm about the world economy.

The economic summit of the Group of Seven major industrialised countries, to be held in Toronto on June 19-21, is therefore likely to reaffirm current policies rather than adopt sweeping new initiatives, Wilson told a group of foreign correspondents yesterday.

Realities

"I wouldn't look for major new statements, major new decisions," he said.

But in another pre-summit briefing, the government-funded

Economic Council of Canada took a much gloomier view of economic realities.

The council's deputy chairman, Harvey Lazar, said failure to correct the "fundamental disequilibrium in the world economy" — evidenced by continued huge US deficits — points toward another economic shock. He feared a "hard landing" in which interest rates will soar along with unemployment.

Spending

"We've gotten off relatively easy so far," Lazar said of the surprising resilience of major economies following the market crash. "The question is whether, between now and the election of a new US government, the world

can somehow muddle through. There remains a serious risk, we may not."

He said the United States must either raise taxes or slash spending to attack its deficits, but either course is unlikely in Ronald Reagan's final months as President.

With that major problem untackled, Lazar said, the summit's "scope is pretty limited."

Pressures

Wilson said that since the October crash, the Group of Seven countries — The United States, Japan, West Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Canada — have patched up differences and cooperated to stabilise markets.

He also pointed to a clear shift

in the US economy from consumption to exports, while Japan and West Germany have moved to increase imports to shave their trade surpluses.

"Inflationary pressures on a worldwide basis aren't there," he said, adding that the recent "upward creep" of interest rates should not derail the Group of Seven policies.

Reform of land prices and the goods distribution system in Japan, the extension of shopping hours in West Germany and tax incentives to boost the level of bank savings in the United States are examples of initiatives that could have a major impact, Sylvia Ostry, Canada's ambassador for Multilateral Trade Negotiations, told reporters.

May 15 is a key testing day for Mikulic

Yugoslavs brace for austerity of 'the day after'

BELGRADE, May 11. (Reuters): Yugoslavs call it "the day after," meaning a new era of austerity that follows the end of a government price freeze on May 15.

Besides lifting price controls on 46 per cent of Yugoslav goods on that day, and allowing prices on another 14 per cent to be raised on a 30-day advance notice, the government will also introduce steps to curb wages and public spending and to tighten credit.

In a country with an annual inflation rate already running at more than 150 per cent, people are worried about what could happen when price controls are ended — even though they were widely flouted.

Prices

Official media have reported that thousands of people around the country are flocking to shops and emptying the shelves before prices go up even more. Goods like televisions and washing machines are especially in demand.

May 15 is also a key testing day

for Prime Minister Branko Mikulic, the architect of the austerity steps, all to be made in return for financial help from the International Monetary Fund.

On that day, Mikulic must be re-approved by parliament for the second half of his four-year term.

He has been sharply criticised in the media, by regional officials and unions for his economic policies.

Income

The government of Yugoslavia's richest region, Slovenia, has demanded Mikulic's resignation and said it will otherwise call for a no-confidence vote in parliament, the first ever, blaming him for two years of economic hardship.

The Croatia regional parliament also decided to propose a no-confidence vote. Finance Minister, Svetozar Rikanovic told a businessmen's meeting on May 4: "The package of economic measures will be painful to many but we must be consistent in its implementation."

which will be filled with obstacles and temptations."

"The Yugoslav market will open to foreign competition, and it will be a market race in which the unsuccessful will drop out," Rikanovic said.

The state news agency Tanjug said the lowest income earners would be the hardest hit by the package.

Last year there were thousands of strikes over low pay after the government tried to impose a partial pay freeze. In Macedonia, workers took to the streets in protests — the first such demonstrations in post-war Yugoslavia.

Pay

The official City Trade Union Federation has assailed the Mikulic government's economic performance over the past two years and what it sees as the lack of measures in the new programme to protect workers' standards of living.

The City, representing most of Yugoslavia's 6.6 million

workers, this week demanded laws to guarantee minimum pay in loss making enterprises not lower than 80 per cent of average wages.

Laid-off workers should get unemployment pay not lower than 65 per cent of average wages, and retraining for new jobs, the City said. Yugoslavia has over one million people out of work.

The government is looking at still more reforms, but the main thrust is to make the Yugoslav economy more market-based.

Mikulic set up a reform commission of top economists this year to consider cutting central planning, expanding small-scale private business and liberalising foreign investment.

Some of the reforms, to make enterprises more autonomous and more responsible for profit and loss, will be announced soon after May 15, officials say.

Other reforms will come later, binging on a constitutional amendments due to be completed by the end of 1988.

Gulf investors vying to build aluminium smelters

BAHRAIN, May 11. (Reuters): Lured by cheap energy and soaring aluminium prices, investors are vying to build an aluminium smelter in Qatar and possibly one in Saudi Arabia.

Investor groups in Qatar, one government-led and the other private, are attracted by state backing and cheap energy from natural gas as Qatar's huge North Field is developed.

Potential

Qatar's smelter would be the Gulf's third after Dubai's 150,000-tonne plant in the UAE and one of 180,000 tonnes in Bahrain.

Industry sources said a Jeddah-based group had finished a

feasibility study for \$800-million plant in Yanbu on Saudi Arabia's Red Sea coast and would soon invite local investors to take a stake in the project.

Abdullah Al Muajjel, secretary-general of the Doha-based Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consulting (Goic), told Reuters he had lined up potential investors for a 200,000-tonne a year plant in Qatar and construction could begin by early 1990.

A second group competing to win the approval of the Qatari government comprises private investors who had been seeking to build smelter in Umm Al Quwain in the UAE.

Paul Brunner, who is putting

the Umm Al Quwain project together, told Reuters his group was now considering Qatar as an alternative.

The group is made up 51 per cent by the emirate's government and a Dubai-based firm with the rest held by an international consortium.

Production

The group had hoped to start production in the UAE by the first half of 1990. But the project was delayed after Iran attacked the UAE's Mubarak oil field in mid-April, Brunner said.

Industry sources said the group also had problems in securing a steady supply of natural gas in Umm Al Quwain.

Brunner said the Qatar plant

would be of the same design as that planned for the UAE, with an annual output of 240,000 tonnes and a cost of \$1 billion.

"We will choose to build first in either Qatar or Umm Al Quwain. The banks are applied and waiting for the final price and final terms (of the smelter)," he said.

"We have the finance together. It is now a political decision," he said.

Goic, an organisation owned by seven Gulf Arab countries, last Saturday invited 17 international investors to put up an equity stake in its project. Nuajjel said Goic was now negotiating with Qatar on the cost and supply of energy.

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6. Sultan Centre Trdg. & Gen. Cont. Co. (two offers)

7. Equipment Co.

8. Al-Hani Construction Est.

9. National Electrical & Mechanical Works Co.

Tender No. MTM 31/87

Tender's internal No. 892/88

Concerned party: Ministry of Public Health

Requirements: Supply of eye operation surgical instruments for New Military Hospital

Relevant fee: KD100/-

Initial guarantee: 5% of offers value

Closing date: 12.00 noon, Sunday 26.6.88

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Dear Junior Readers,

Today we have something we want to share with your parents and teachers. They might even want to clip it out and keep it.

Children learn what they live

By Dorothy Low Mohe

If a child lives with criticism,
he learns to condemn.
If a child lives with hostility,
he learns to fight.
If a child lives with fear,
he learns to be apprehensive.
If a child lives with pity,
he learns to feel sorry for himself.
If a child lives with ridicule,
he learns to be shy.
If a child lives with jealousy,
he learns what envy is.
If a child lives with shame,
he learns to feel guilty.
If a child lives with encouragement,
he learns to be confident.
If a child lives with tolerance,
he learns to be patient.
If a child lives with praise,
he learns to be appreciative.
If a child lives with acceptance,
he learns to love.
If a child lives with approval,
he learns to like himself.
If a child lives with recognition,
he learns that it is good to have a goal.
If a child lives with sharing,
he learns about generosity.
If a child lives with honesty and fairness,
he learns what truth and justice are.
If a child lives with security,
he learns to have faith in himself and those about him.
If a child lives with friendliness,
he learns that the world is a nice place in which to live.
If you live with serenity,
Your child will live with peace of mind.
With what is your child living?

Aunt Barbara

A KING had a daughter who was marvellously beautiful, but she was so proud, haughty and capricious that she not only turned down one suitor after another but made a laughingstock of them as well.

Once the king gave a great banquet to which he invited all the young men he considered suitable candidates for his daughter's hand. They were lined up according to their rank and station: first the kings, then the princes, then the dukes, followed by the counts and the barons, and finally the lesser nobles.

The princess, who was escorted down the row of noblemen, had some fault to find with each of them. Most of all she amused herself over the crooked chin of the good king who stood at the head of the line.

"Why he has a chin like the beak of a thrush," the princess announced.

From then on, everyone called him "Thrush-beard."

When the old king saw that his daughter did nothing but mock the guests, he became so angry that he swore to give her in marriage to the first beggar who came to the door.

Soon after, a passing minstrel stopped to sing beneath the princess's window. The king ordered the minstrel brought to him, and dirty as the beggar was, the princess was for-

King Thrushbeard

ced to accept him as her bridegroom. A priest was sent for at once, and the wedding took place. As soon as the ceremony was over, the king said to his daughter, "It is no longer fitting that you live here in the palace. Now you must go with your husband."

And so the beggar and the king's daughter left the palace together. On their way they passed through a huge forest, and the princess asked, "Whose beautiful forest is this?"

"King Thrushbeard owns the woods you see, and they might have belonged to thee."

The princess replied: "A foolish maid, I was mistaken."

If only Thrushbeard I had taken."

Soon after they passed through some meadowland. "Whose lovely meadows are these?"

"King Thrushbeard owns the fields you see, and they might have belonged to thee."

Again the princess said: "A foolish maid, I was mistaken."

If only Thrushbeard I had taken."

Then they came to a large city. "Whose great city is this?"

"King Thrushbeard owns the town you see, and it might have belonged to thee."

ged to thee."

For the third time, the princess replied: "A foolish maid, I was mistaken."

If only Thrushbeard I had taken."

By now the beggar had grown quite surly with his wife, who seemed little interested in him and wished only that she had married King Thrushbeard.

Finally they arrived at a tiny house, and the princess said:

"Oh, what a poor, small house I see."

Whose may this stingy hovel be?"

The beggar replied, "This poor, small house is our house, where we will live. Be quick now, start a fire and set the kettle boiling so that you can cook me a meal. I am tired out."

But the princess knew nothing about cooking. Her husband had to help with everything and so they managed tolerably well, and when they had eaten, they went to sleep.

In the morning, however, the princess had to get up early and do the housework. This went badly and after a few days the husband said, "Wife, we can't go on this way any longer, just eating and drinking and not earning any money. You might try



weaving baskets." He went out and cut some willows and the princess began to weave them into baskets, but the tough willows soon cut into her hands.

"It is clear you can't make baskets," said the husband, "so you had better try spinning. That will probably go better."

"You're no good at any work," the husband said very much annoyed. "I'll start a pots-and-pans business, and you will sell them in the market."

At first things went very well. The people were glad to buy pots from so beautiful a vendor. They paid whatever price she asked and some even paid and left the pots behind. When everything was sold, the husband bought up a

whole new lot of dishes and again the wife sat herself in the market, hoping to make a good profit. But a drunken hussar rode right in among the dishes and shattered them into thousands of pieces. The wife was frightened and did not dare go home all day. When she finally went home, she found that the minstrel had run away and left her.

For a while she lived all alone in great need, until one day a man came and invited her to a wedding. She hoped to be able to bring back some leftovers that she could live on for a time. Then she put on her cloak and hid a pot and a leather bag, which she had slung over her shoulder, beneath it.

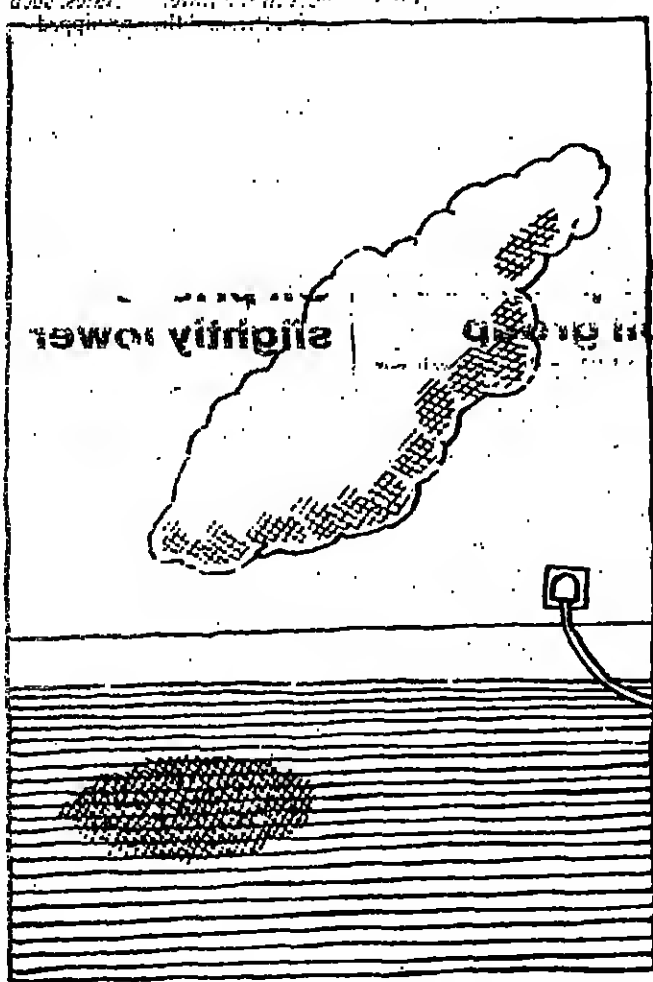
At the wedding, everything was splendid and plentiful. She had filled her pot with soup and her bag with scraps and was preparing to leave. Just then one of the guests insisted that she dance with him. She tried her best to refuse, but he took hold of her arm and swung her into step. The pot fell down and the soup ran all over the floor. The scraps flew out of her bag and scattered. When the guests saw what had happened, they laughed and made fun of her. She was so embarrassed she wished she were a thousand feet underground. She hurried to the door and was about to run down the steps when a man stopped her and brought her back. Glancing up, she recognised King Thrushbeard.

The king said to her, "The minstrel and I are one and the same. I was also the hunter who shattered your dishes in the marketplace. All that happened was intended to teach you a lesson and was your punishment for having mocked me. But now the time has come to celebrate our wedding."

The old king, her father, and his entire court arrived for the festivities. The princess was dressed in magnificent clothing as befitting her station, and a great feast was held in honour of her wedding to King Thrushbeard.

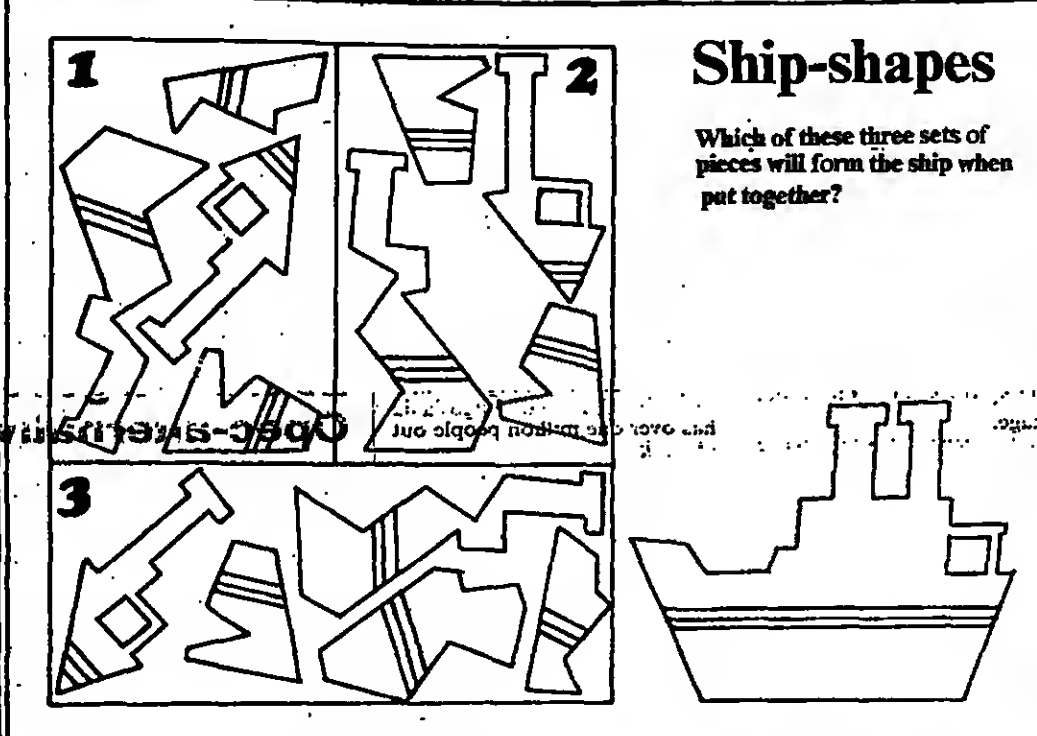
Doctor, doctor

Doctor, doctor, I keep thinking I'm invisible. Well, I can't see anything wrong with you.



Doctor, doctor, I've just eaten twenty-five pancakes. Oh, how waffle!

Doctor, doctor, people take me for a beekeeper. Sit over here, honey.



Ship-shapes

Which of these three sets of pieces will form the ship when put together?

Amazing records



Biggest scene
Lotta Wannamore, 7, of Salmiya, caused \$7,241.26 worth of damages, slightly injured six employees and mortified her mother at the co-op. Her mother wouldn't buy her a four storey dollhouse. Mother promptly bought her a strait jacket.

Most unusual excuse for not going to bed
This is credited to Abraham Wong, 7, of Jabriya. He wanted to stay up to see the late evening news analysis of President's Reagan's economic policies. His parents called their doctor.

Bear

There was a boy who almost saw a bear inside his bed.

O bear, what are you looking for? He almost went and said,

Poetry Corner

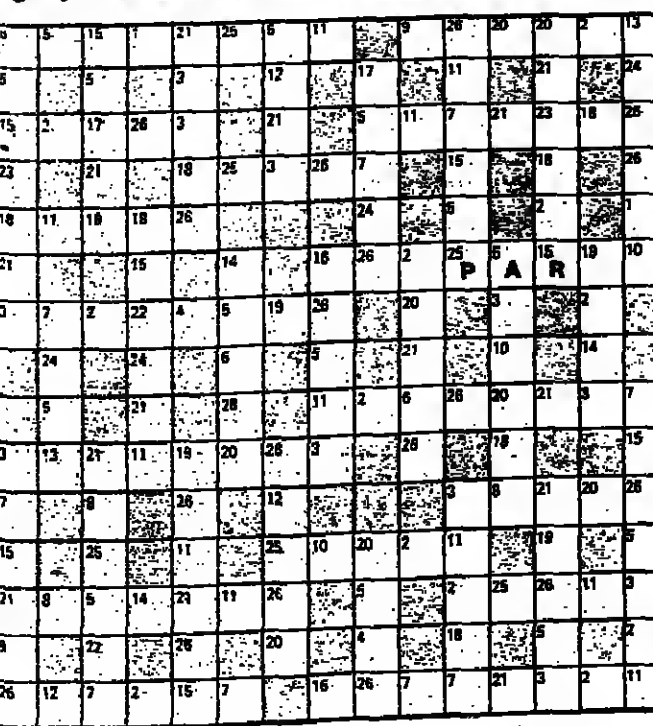
And are you looking for a boy that's fat and sweet, fed?
But then he shut his eyes, and thought of other things instead.

Jean Kennerly



Cross reference

The object is to discover which letter of the alphabet each number in the diagram represents. Repeat the starter letters wherever their respective numbers occur; this should give you enough clues to start guessing at likely words.



REFERENCE GRID

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

Factfile FROM THE GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS



THE MONSIEUR GERBIL (MUSCIVORUS MUSCIVORUS) IS THE SMALLEST LIVING MAMMAL THAT WAS FIRST DESCRIBED IN 1811, BUT DOMESTIC BREEDING DID NOT BEGIN UNTIL 1950. A JAPANESE ZOOLOGIST COLLECTED 200 PAIRS FROM THE AMUR RIVER BASIN ON THE SINO-SOVIET BORDER.



THE LARGEST FISH IN THE WORLD IS THE GIANT MONITOR LACERTID (PHANODON MURRAYI) WHICH IS FOUND IN THE WARMER AREAS OF THE ATLANTIC, PACIFIC AND INDIAN OCEANS. THE LONGEST SCIENTIFICALLY MEASURED SPECIMEN ON RECORD, CAPTURED OFF BAHIA ISLAND, PAKISTAN ON 11 NOV 1949, WAS 41 1/2 IN (106.5 CM) IN LENGTH AND WEIGHED AN ESTIMATED 15 TONNES.



THE OCEAN SUNFISH (MOLA MOLA) IS THE HEAVIEST BONY FISH IN THE WORLD. ON 8 SEPT 1908 A SPECIMEN WAS ACCIDENTALLY STRUCK BY THE SS FLOVA OFF BIRD ISLAND, NEW SOUTH WALES WHICH MEASURED 14 FT (4.26 M) AND WEIGHED 4427 LB (2009 KG).

Bits and bobs

Only two of the objects shown here appear twice. Which ones?



Norman overcomes Williams

AMSTERDAM, May 11. (Reuters) Former world champion Ross Norman of New Zealand narrowly averted defeat against Britain's Geoff Williams to reach the quarterfinal of the World Open squash championship tournament here yesterday.

Forced to a 64-minute match, Norman's hard-won 7-9 10-8 9-0 9-1 victory leaves him with the prospect of a semifinal against Pakistan's Jansher Khan.

But the top-seeded champion, who quickly dismissed Britain's Phil Kenyon 9-2, 9-0, 9-3 in the second round, first meets Chris Robertson of Australia, who went through to the quarterfinal after beating Britain's Bryan Besson 9-7, 9-3, 9-7.

Norman, who broke Jahangir Khan's five-year winning streak to take the title in 1986 and now ranks fifth worldwide, by contrast had a hard time initially against 19th-ranked Williams.

Failed

Having ceded the first game 7-9, Norman — also for a long time failed to take matters in hand in the second game.

But trailing 3-8, he saved a game point against him and retook the initiative as Williams' lingering back injury started to wear on his strength.

Clawing his way back to 6-8, fourth-seeded Norman lost only one more serve before taking the second game 10-8 after 26 minutes.

His confidence restored, Norman capitalised on his comeback and cruised through the third game in a mere four minutes for a 9-0 win, finally taking the fourth 9-1.

Norman meets 18-year-old Del Harris of Britain in the quarterfinal, the last European to have come through to the last eight.

Harris, ruling British and youth world champion, lived up to the expectations triggered by his recent unprecedented giant leap from 92nd to 31st in world rankings after reaching the final eight of the Spanish and French Open.

Displaying a varied combination of sliced backhands and swift pace changes, the unseeded Harris beat New Zealand's Rory Watt in a closely-fought second round match.

Harris, who surprised with a first-round win over seventh-seeded Ross Thorne, kept his cool and shrugged off a dramatic second game defeat to beat 40th-ranked Watt 9-3, 2-9, 9-1, 9-7 in a 65-minute match.

Quickly

In the second group, third-seeded Chris Dittmar of Australia quickly beat Pakistan's Magsood Ahmed 9-0, 9-0, 9-1.

He now faces a tough quarterfinal against fifth-seeded compatriot Rodney Martin, who beat Britain's Neil Harvey in a close match 9-7, 8-10, 9-7, 9-2.

If he wins, Dittmar is likely to face former world champion Jahangir Khan in the semifinal.

Second-seeded Jahangir Khan dismissed Australia's Ricki Hill 9-2, 9-1, 9-0 and now meets compatriot Umar Khan, who beat Brett Martin of Australia 9-5, 9-1, 9-5, in the quarterfinal.

United pair

MANCHESTER, England, May 11. (Reuters) Manchester United have withdrawn leading scorer Brian McClair and Gordon Strachan from the Scotland squad to face England and Colombia in the Rous Cup triangular tournament next week.

United have a prestige friendly against AC Milan on May 24 — the night of the Colombia match.

NBA playoffs

NEW YORK, May 11. (Reuters) Second-round results of National Basketball Association (NBA) playoff games yesterday (only games scheduled):

Eastern Conference
Detroit 93, Chicago 82 (Detroit leads series 1-0)
Western Conference
Denver 126, Dallas 115 (Denver leads series 1-0)
Utah 101, L.A. Lakers 97 (Series tied 1-1)

MIDDLESEX SCORE WIN OVER SURREY

Gooch continues his war on Kent

LONDON, May 11. (Reuters) Graham Gooch continued his one-man war on Kent with a superb unbeaten 120 for Essex in the Benson and Hedges Cup limited overs competition at Canterbury yesterday.

Against bowlers who must be sick at the sight of him, the 34-year-old England opener brought his season's haul off them to 558 runs in four innings, including a career-best 275 in the opening county championship game.

Masterminded

Gooch, who now has 884 runs from 11 innings in all competitions, masterminded Essex to a massive 282 for seven in a match which only got under way at 1400 local time because of rain.

When daylight forced an early halt, Kent were six for no wicket in the third over.

Gooch's form will be a boost to England's selectors, who meet this weekend to pick the squad to face West Indies in the first one-day match.

Mike Gatting, confirmed on

Monday as captain for the three one-day matches and the first two Tests, will be happy that his own form is holding up nicely. He made a sound 72 for Middlesex against Surrey at the Oval, but had to endure a nailbiting finish before his side sneaked home by one run.

Middlesex made 224 for nine and their early bowlers tied down Surrey so effectively — David Smith spent over three hours scoring 85 — that 82 were needed off the last 10 overs. A brave assault by Monte Lynch, unbeaten on 63 in only 58 balls, just failed to turn the tables.

Ian Botham's hopes of an England recall nosedived at Worcester where his wretched batting form continued, this time with selectors' chairman Peter May watching.

Botham was dismissed for four as Worcestershire struggled to make 198 for eight against Nottinghamshire, and has now only 89 from seven innings this season.



Gooch: hammered 120

Notts were handily placed at 124 for three in 36.4 overs with Derek Randall unbeaten on 58 when bad light halted play for the day.

Warwickshire rattled up their highest score in the competition a massive 308 for four as they brushed aside Scotland, led by for-

mer Notts captain Clive Rice. Asif Din made 107 and captain Andy Lloyd 93 before Alvin Kallicharran hammered an unbeaten 90 in only 62 minutes to earn the Man of the Match award.

Rice hit 56 when Scotland replied, but their 185 for five was just a token gesture.

Cup holders Yorkshire, not in action yesterday, suffered a blow when Lord's ruled the runs they scored in their rain-ravaged Cup game against Northamptonshire would not count in the final table.

Yorkshire scored 173 for one in 37.2 overs and would have been in a healthy position had they been involved in a points tie with another team in their group, in which case placings would be decided on run rate.

But Lord's have decreed that since Northants did not have the opportunity even to start their innings, Yorkshire's runs will not count.

Northants, meanwhile, eased

to a 44-run win over Minor Counties and they did not need any fireworks from Dennis Lillee. He took one for 23 in nine overs as Northants restricted Minor Counties to 158 in reply to 202 for six.

Derbyshire look set for a quarterfinal place after five-wicket win over Lancashire with eight balls to spare.

Lancashire, with Gehan Mendis and Graeme Fowler putting on 106 in 24 overs, looked well placed at 257 for seven.

Rescue

But captain Kim Barnett laid the foundations for Derbyshire with a fine 85, then with the side needing 61 from seven overs, Michael Holding came to the rescue with a whirlwind unbeaten 35, including two successive sixes off Paul Allott, to see them home.

Phil Bainbridge made 96 in Gloucestershire's six-wicket win over Hampshire after captain David Graveney had earlier torn the heart out of the Hants batting by taking three of their first four wickets for 28 in seven overs.

Haynes finds form as West Indies bat on

HOVE, England, May 11. (Reuters) Opener Desmond Haynes struck 158 as the West Indies put batting practice ahead of a likely victory against Sussex yesterday.

The three-day cricket match meandered towards a tame draw from midday onwards when captain Viv Richards did not enforce the follow-on.

After taking less than 50 minutes to finish bowling out Sussex for 252 in the morning, West Indies, 561 for nine declared in their first innings, had a minimum 81 overs to dismiss the hosts a second time and claim a crushing win.

Reached

Haynes found his touch during a four-hour innings which included 22 boundaries. Richie Richardson contributed 82 as West Indies reached 305 for five before a halt was called. By then they were 614 ahead.

Tour manager Jackie Hendricks explained: "We have only one more first class match before the one-day internationals start. That is against Somerset at Taunton next Saturday and we have only a limited overs game with Hampshire between now and then. It was felt that it was more important to give our batsmen practice."

Scoreboard

WEST INDIES first innings 561 for nine declared (R. Harper 217 not out, V. Richards 128, C. Ambrose 59).
SUSSEX first innings (overnight) 211 for six (R. Aikman c Richardson b Bishop 29, A. Green c Richards b Bishop 32, P. Parker c Haynes b Hooper 89, A. Wells b Benjamin 17, C. Wells c Williams b Benjamin 1, Lenham c Benjamin b Ambrose 12, I. Gould c Williams b Hooper 33).



Haynes: hit 158

M. Pringle b Bishop 14
A. Clarke c Lark b Bishop 1
R. Bunting not out 1
A. Babbington c Bishop b Hooper 2
Evans lbw b Hooper 4
Total 252
Fall of wickets: 1-57 2-79 3-148 4-197 5-198 6-195 7-239 8-245 9-245.
Bowling: Ambrose 14-4-42-1, Benjamin 15-4-38-2, Harper 10-5-24-0, Bishop 14-4-55-4, Richards 8-1-22-0, Hooper 16-5-2-61-3.
WEST INDIES second innings 2
D. Haynes c Clarke b Aikman 158
Richardson c Babbington b Clarke 82
C. Hooper c Parker b A. Wells 34
A. Logie not out 10
D. Williams lbw b Aikman 5
V. Benjamin not out 1
Extras (lb-1 lb-6 nb-9) 24
Total (for five wickets, declared) 305
Fall of wickets: 1-13 2-210 3-281 4-285 5-300.
Did not bat: V. Richards, R. Harper, C. Ambrose, I. Bishop.
Bowling: Bunting 13-4-71-0, Pringle 10-2-37-1, Babbington 10-1-41-0, C. Wells 7-2-13-0, Clarke 10-1-51-1, Lenham 3-0-18-0, A. Wells 9-1-43-1, Aikman 7-0-19-2, Green 3-1-5-0.

Injuries disrupt Robson's plans

LONDON, May 11. (Reuters) England's preparations for next month's European soccer championship finals were further disrupted yesterday because of injuries, club calls and the First Division playoffs.

Manager Bobby Robson, already suffering from the injury loss of defenders Terry Butcher of Glasgow Rangers and Stuart Pearce of Nottingham Forest, was hoping to assemble his squad for their four main championship warm-up games.

But no sooner had he named a 24-strong party than 11 of them were ruled out of the first match — a testimonial for Liverpool captain Alan Hansen next Mon-

day. Four, Tony Dorigo, Gary Pallister, Glenn Hoddle and Mark Hateley, could also miss the three other fixtures, against Scotland on May 21, Colombia on May 24 and a friendly in Switzerland on May 28.

First

Chelsea fullback Dorigo, named to the England squad for the first time, would, if the London club battle through to the two-leg final of the play-offs, have to miss the three May internationals.

Pallister is in the same boat while Monaco's Hateley and Hoddle are still involved in the

French League. Steve McMahon, Peter Beardsley and John Barnes will all be representing their Liverpool club rather than England in the Hansen testimonial and Manchester United pair Bryan Robson and Viv Anderson are needed for a friendly with AC Milan on Tuesday.

Barcelona striker Gary Lincker is also unavailable and Robson is unlikely to consider Nottingham Forest midfielder Neil Webb, set to play in his side's final two League games on the preceding Friday and Sunday.

Included among the strikers is Luton's Mick Harford, whose only cap was as a substitute in the

goalless draw with Israel in February.

Squad: Shilton (Derby), Woods (Glasgow Rangers), Seaman (Queen's Park Rangers), Stevens (Everton), Anderson (Manchester United), Sansom (Arsenal), Dorigo (Chelsea), Wright (Derby), Watson (Everton), Adams (Arsenal), Pallister (Middlesbrough), Robson (Manchester United), Webb (Nottingham Forest), Reid (Everton), Steven (Everton), Hoddle (Monaco), McMahon, Beardsley, Barnes (all Liverpool), Hateley (Monaco), Lincker (Barcelona), Cottee (West Ham), Waddle (Tottenham), Harford (Luton).

Hungary and Denmark draw

BUDAPEST, May 11. (Reuters) Denmark, missing several top players to injury and club commitments, trailed twice but drew 2-2 in a European Soccer Championship warm-up against Hungary yesterday.

The Danes started without Soeren Lerby, Ivan Nielsen and Jan Heinze, needed by PSV Eindhoven for the Dutch Cup final on Thursday, and the injured Preben Elkjaer and Frank Arnesen.

Baseball games

NEW YORK, May 11. (Reuters) Results of yesterday's major league baseball games:

National League			
Los Angeles	6	Chicago Cubs	5
Montreal	6	Atlanta	1
Pittsburgh	6	Sao Francisco	2
Cincinnati	10	Philadelphia	1
New York	5	Houston	2
St Louis	5	San Diego	1
American League			
New York	4	Chicago Sox	3
Seattle	17	Toronto	3
Minnesota	9	Milwaukee	3
Kansas City	7	Boston	2
Texas	13	Baltimore	2
Cleveland	7	California	2
Detroit	8	Oakland	2

Turin's Cup hopes suffer setback

TURIN, Italy, May 11. (Reuters) Turin's hopes of hosting matches in the 1990 World Cup soccer finals suffered a setback when the city council narrowly voted against completing a new stadium.

Socialist mayor Maria Magagnoli threatened to resign after the vote on Monday night, which provoked a local government crisis.

Germani 'Neuburger, vice-

president of the International Football Federation (Fifa), said last week that Turin authorities must approve work on a new stadium by the end of May if the soccer-loving city was to be included as a venue.

Requirements
Turin is home to First Division teams Juventus and Torino but the shared Stadio Comunale does not have enough seating or facilities to meet Fifa's World

Cup requirements. The new stadium on the outskirts of the city has not got beyond excavation and the laying of foundations because of wrangles and delays in the five-party coalition council.

Monday's meeting had been expected to approve completion of the construction work but councillors voted 39-38 against the proposals, with some defying their own party instructions.

Mears drives fastest lap

INDIANAPOLIS, May 11. (UPI) Rick Mears drove the fastest lap ever at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, reaching 220.047 mph (354.123 kph) yesterday during practice for the 72nd Indianapolis 500.

Mears, a two-time Indy winner and three-time pole sitter, nicked the third-turn wall during his record run.

"I touched the paint down in turn 3," he said. "The car was slipping, and I was trying to straighten out the front a little bit. I let the car get too loose. I'm not sure if it hurt my speed or not. It didn't help my heart any."

Mears drove his Chevrolet-powered Penske around the 2.1/2-mile (4 km) oval in 40.9 seconds, breaking the unofficial mark of 219.887 (353.864 kph)

set earlier yesterday by Mario Andretti, who later achieved a top speed of 219.995 mph (354.038 kph). The record entering yesterday was 218.234 mph (351.204 kph), set last year by Andretti.

"Once I saw the way things were going, I thought we would reach 220 (354 kph)," Mears said. "But you don't pick a number to shoot for. You just go out and try to go faster."

Mears set the official speedway records for one and four laps in 1986, with a qualifying average of 216.828 mph (348.941 kph) and a best lap of 217.581 (350.153 kph). Official marks can only be set in qualifying or during the race. Mears said his marks will fall.

FASHIONWAY

(opening soon in Fahaheel)

Invites applications for the following :

1. SUPERVISORS
2. SALESMEN
3. SALES ASSISTANTS
4. DISPLAY/MERCHANDISER

Applicants must speak fluent Arabic and English, possess transferable visas and reside near Fahaheel.

Personal interviews on 12th and 13th May between 10:00 am and 5:00 pm at Fashionway, Safeway Farwaniya, First Floor.

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KUWAIT NATIONAL PETROLEUM COMPANY K.S.C.

ADVERTISEMENT
Tenderers are invited to quote for the following tenders:-

Tender No.	Description	Tender fee	Issuing date	Closing date	Initial guarantee	Validity
KT-3081	Lumbar Services	KD.5/-	11.5.1988 30.5.1988	At Head Office - Kuwait	2-1/2%	90 days

Tender documents can be purchased from the office of HPPC secretary at KNPC Head Office at 1st Floor-Room No. 57, as from 11.5.88.
A pre-tender meeting will be held on 14.5.88 at 10.00 am in Shuaiba Refinery.
Please contact tel. no. 3260177 ext. 5544/5439 for gate pass.

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Tenderers are invited to quote for the following tenders:-

Tender No.	Description	Tender fee	Issuing date	Closing date	Initial guarantee	Validity
KT-3072	Post control services	KD.5/-	11.5.88	30.5.88	At Head Office - Kuwait	2-1/2% 90 days

Tender documents can be purchased from the office of HPPC secretary at KNPC Head Office at 1st Floor-Room No. 57, as from 11.5.88.
A pre-tender meeting will be held on 15.5.88 at 10.00 am in Shuaiba Refinery.
Please contact tel. no. 3260177 ext. 5544/5439 for gate pass.

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Advertisement
Tenders are invited for the supply of the following:-

Tender No.	Material	Tender fee	Issuing date	Closing date
7/7712	Medical equipment	KD.2/-	May 11, 1988	June 27, 1988
7/7722	Pipes	KD.2/-	May 11, 1988	June 27, 1988
7/7726	Stainless steel bar	KD.2/-	May 11, 1988	June 27, 1988
7/7728	Lab supplies	KD.2/-	May 11, 1988	June 27, 1988
7/7734	Chemicals	KD.2/-	May 11, 1988	June 27, 1988
7/7738	Stainless steel strapping	KD.2/-	May 11, 1988	June 27, 1988
7/7743	Lamps	KD.2/-	May 11, 1988	June 27, 1988
7/7752	Heat exchangers heat traps	KD.2/-	May 11, 1988	June 27, 1988

Tender documents can be purchased from the office of the HPPC secretary at KNPC Head Office, 1st Floor-Room No. 57, as from 11.5.1988.

شركة البترول الوطنية الكويتية ش.م.ك.
KUWAIT NATIONAL PETROLEUM COMPANY K.S.C.

Tenders are invited for the supply of the following:-

Tender No.	Material	Tender fee	Issuing date	Closing date
7/4062	Citric acid	KD.2/-	11.5.88	13.6.88
7/4081	Redwood pallets	KD.2/-	11.5.88	13.6.88
7/4093	Round bars & C.S. plates	KD.2/-	11.5.88	13.6.88
7/4095	Pipes & pipe fittings	KD.2/-	11.5.88	13.6.88
7/4023	Open steel flooring panels	KD.2/-	11.5.88	20.6.88
7/4082	Polyphosphate	KD.2/-	11.5.88	20.6.88
7/4089	Aluminium pipe jacketing	KD.2/-	11.5.88	20.6.88
7/4033	U-bends	KD.2/-	11.5.88	27.6.88
7/4092	Gloves	KD.2/-	11.5.88	27.6.88
7/4096	Coveralls	KD.2/-	11.5.88	27.6.88

Tender documents can be purchased from the office of the HPPC secretary at KNPC Head Office 1st floor — Room No. 57, as from 11.5.1988.

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Government Warning: Smoking is a major cause of cancer and diseases of the lungs, heart and arteries.

SPORTS

Budd suffers major nervous collapse, says coach

LONDON, May 11, (Reuters): Zola Budd has suffered a major nervous collapse from which she will not recover for several months, her coach John Bryant said yesterday.

"She is suffering from deep depression and has been weeping a lot. It has all been too much for her," Bryant told Reuters.

Announcing the 21-year-old South African-born athlete flew into Johannesburg yesterday hours after announcing she was pulling out of international competition.

Bryant admitted that Budd's decision to return to her native land would fuel the anti-apartheid campaign against her but she had done so on her doctor's recommendation.

"I have had long talks with her and she is aware of the implications. But she needs to be surrounded by her family. There is no way I could deny her that," he said.

"The doctors tell me she is incapable of rational thought. It is terrible to see someone reduced to that state."

And Bryant said that despite the large amounts of appearance money Budd had received, including £92,000 (\$173,000) for one race, she had little money left.

"Not only is she broken, but she is close to being broke," he said.

She also had no sponsorship and on top of that, injury prevented her running last year and therefore she had no income.

Bryant said the controversy over whether she had "taken part" in an athletics meeting in South Africa, due to be the subject of the BAA's inquiry, had increased the pressure on Budd.

"She is being tried for an offence she knows she did not commit. But she said to me that even if she was cleared by the inquiry, she felt she still would not let her go to the Olympic Games."

"She is a human sacrifice, if you like, on the altar of this row."

SPORTS BRIEFS

Ferns journey

GOA Maroons meet Incredible XI in the final of the Ida Ferns Memorial Football Tournament at the Sour grounds on Friday, May 20. The match will start at 7.30 am.

Monaco GP

MONTE CARLO, May 11, (Reuters): Briton Nigel Mansell believes the twisting streets of Monte Carlo can help him mount a serious challenge to the turbo brigade and earn his first world championship points of the season in Sunday's Monaco Grand Prix.

Coach suspended

BOSTON, Mass., May 11, (Reuters): National Hockey League (NHL) president John Ziegler suspended New Jersey Devils coach Jim Schoenfeld for one game and fined him \$1,000 yesterday for his altercation last Friday with referee Don Koharski during a Stanley Cup playoff against the Boston Bruins.

Rugby coach

SYDNEY, May 11, (Reuters): Alan Jones has exacted some revenge for his cursory dismissal as Australian Rugby Union coach by revealing successor Bob Dwyer buckled under pressure from a leading player Simon Poidevin, and reinstated him in the national team.

Matthews Cup

TORONTO, May 11, (Reuters): Canada's soccer players — Ian Bridge, Randy Samuel and Craig Forrest — will return to take part in the Sir Stanley Matthews Cup tournament from May 21 to 27 in Toronto, the organisers announced yesterday.

Everest climber

KATHMANDU, Nepal, May 11, (AP): Sundare, one of the Nepal's best-known climbers, reached the top of Mount Everest yesterday in his fifth conquest of the world's tallest peak. The first member of the Royal Nepal Army also reached the summit, the Nepal Mountaineering Association said.

Marvin Hagler

MILAN, Italy, May 11, (AP): Former world middleweight boxing champion Marvin Hagler, while publicising his first-ever performance as an actor, yesterday made it clear that boxing remains his main interest.

LENDL AND NOAH MOVE INTO SECOND ROUND

Tulasne whips Becker in straight sets

ROME, May 11, (Reuters): Former Wimbledon champion Boris Becker suffered the double indignity of being outplayed by Thierry Tulasne and upstaged by Alpine skier Alberto Tomba yesterday.

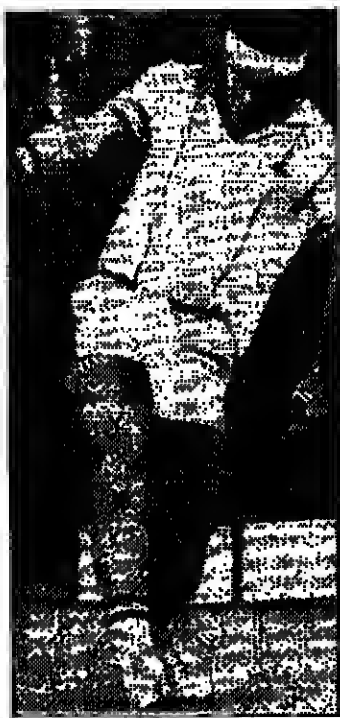
He fell 6-4 7-6 to the brilliant but erratic Frenchman, ranked 67th in the world, in the first round of the Italian Open Tennis Championship and walked off the centre court of the Foro Italico to muted jeers.

Indeed, the loudest cheer of the 85-minute match went to double Wimbledon gold medalist Tomba, who managed to conduct a live television interview with ostentatious aplomb from his VIP box during rallies.

Distinction

With eighth-seeded Argentine Martin Jaite claiming the dubious distinction of being the first to fall when he lost to Austrian Thomas Muster on Monday, Mikael Pernfors of Sweden became the third seeded victim, losing to Czechoslovak veteran Tomas Smid in straight sets on an outside court.

Becker's growing suspicion of claycourts must be worrying manager Ion Tiriac and Australian coach Bob Brett with the start of the French Open less



Tulasne: upsets Becker

than two weeks away.

The West German teenager has now failed to win his last three European clay tournaments, losing to Czechoslovak Marian Vajda in Monte Carlo

last month and to Frenchman Henri Leconte in Hamburg a fortnight ago.

Strangely, Becker's best performance in the four Grand Slam championships last year was in Paris when he reached the semifinals before losing to Mats Wilander.

But he does not yet possess the subtlety and change of pace claycourt tennis demands, deficiencies he acknowledged when asked about his preparations for Roland Garros.

"Perhaps I'll skip France and go straight to Wimbledon," he said wistfully.

Dazzling

There was no time for such lightheartedness on court where Tulasne, 25, whose dazzling talents have never been converted into titles, gained inspiration under the brilliant Roman sun.

After swapping early service breaks, Tulasne achieved the decisive break in the ninth game when he broke Becker to love with the help of one exquisite top spin lob and two double faults from the West German.

As the heat built up, Sweden's Joakim Nystrom, the number 10 seed, followed his Davis Cup team-mate Pernfors out of the

tournament when he was beaten 7-6 6-3 by 29-year-old Chilean Pedro Rebelledo, whose current ranking of 55th is the highest he has ever achieved in 11 years on the tour.

Vocal

Seventh-seeded Swede Anders Jarryd had no such problems in beating Italian Corrado April 6-2 6-1 in a match which provided a vociferous crowd on court six with much entertainment.

American umpire Richard Kaufman, who has become a cult hero in Rome because of his vocal similarity to actor Charlton Heston, had a number of frank exchanges with April about disputed line calls.

One particularly heated conference ended with Kaufman booming "play on" in a tone which inspired April to scan the heavens in mock fear.

Though Becker succumbed, top-seeded Ivan Lendl marched briskly into the second round with a 78-minute 6-1 6-4 victory over compatriot Jaro Navratil.

The world's number one player was ruthlessly efficient, pausing only to complain briefly to the referee that the crowd would not keep still during rallies.

This event will serve as useful clay court preparation for Lendl's defence of his French title this month. After winning at Monte Carlo three weeks ago, he

is clearly back on form after a winter foot injury.

Tulasne's compatriot Yannick Noah, seeded four, took his revenge for a first round defeat here last year by putting out Argentina's Eduardo Bengoechea 6-1 4-6 6-4.

Despite a lapse of concentration in the middle set, Noah was never seriously in trouble.

While the stars cavorted on centre court, yesterday's greatest attraction took place under the pines on outside court B where young American Andre Agassi battled Italian Claudio Pistolesi.

Agassi, fresh from a magnificent title victory at Forest Hills at the weekend, had early trouble adjusting to the different weight of ball and to the slowness of the clay court.

Powerful

But his speed, agility and powerful forehand won through in the end and he took the match 4-6 6-4 6-2.

Spain's Emilio Sanchez joined the seeded casualties when he lost 7-6 7-6 to Italy's Diego Nargiso in a floodlit match.

Eleventh seed Sanchez failed to find his best form in front of the noisy, partisan crowd and suffered against the aggressive play of his teenage opponent.

Nargiso, Wimbledon junior champion, took risks at the net which paid off and won both tie-breaks 7-1 and 7-3.

Graf brushes aside Halard

WEST BERLIN, 11, (Reuters): Steffi Graf returned to tournament tennis in stunning form yesterday and routed France's Julie Halard 6-0 6-1 in the second round of the West German Women's Championships.

The 18-year-old West German top seed is unlikely to be seriously tested until at least the semifinals, where she should meet compatriot and third seed Claudia Kohde-Kilsch.

Kohde-Kilsch made heavy weather of a 6-2 7-5 victory over fellow-West German Heike Thoms, taking an hour and 24

minutes to reach the third round. Czechoslovakia's second seed Helena Sukova also stuttered and was taken to a first set tiebreak before defeating Argentine Bettina Fulco 7-6 6-1.

Sukova's former compatriot Hana Mandlikova was in more serious trouble against West German outsider Veronika Martinek.

Fourth seed Mandlikova, now an Australian citizen, dropped the first set to her 16-year-old opponent, but recovered to win 2-6 6-4 6-2.

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